

Dutch Queen Beatrix Stepping Down



Dutch Queen Beatrix poses for a photographer prior or shortly after announcing her April 30, 2013, abdication in a prerecorded speech in The Hague, Netherlands, Monday Jan. 28, 2013. Beatrix, who turns 75 on Thursday, has ruled the nation of 16 million for more than 32 years and would be succeeded by her eldest son, Crown Prince Willem-Alexander.

(AP Photo/RVD, HO)

Willem-Alexander to be first Dutch king since 1890

MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Netherlands' Queen Beatrix announced Monday that she is ending her reign after 33 years and passing the crown to her eldest son, who has long been groomed to be king but who will have to work hard to match his mother's popularity. The widely expected abdication comes at a time of debate over the future of the largely ceremonial Dutch monarchy, but also

as calm has descended upon the Netherlands after a decade of turmoil that saw Beatrix act as the glue that held together an increasingly divided society. "Responsibility for our country must now lie in the hands of a new generation," Beatrix, one of Europe's longest-serving monarchs, said in the simple, televised speech announcing her abdication.

The queen, who turns 75 in just a few days, said she will step down from the throne on April 30. That same day,

her eldest son, Willem-Alexander, will be appointed king at an inauguration in Amsterdam.

He will be the Netherlands' first king since Willem III died in 1890.

Willem-Alexander is a 45-year-old father of three young daughters, an International Olympic Committee member, a pilot and a water management expert.

Over the years, he has struggled to win the affection of this nation of 16 million, but his immensely popular wife,

the Argentine-born Maxima, has helped him gain more acceptance ever since she brushed away a tear during their wedding in 2002.

They are a hard-working couple: Willem-Alexander regularly gives speeches at water conferences, sharing his low-lying nation's centuries of experience battling to stay dry, while soon-to-be Queen Maxima, a former investment banker, has carved out a career as a microfinance expert.

Together, the pair has of-

ten been seen cheering on Dutch sportsmen and women at Olympics from Beijing, to Vancouver and London.

"He's known as 'Mister Water,' isn't he? He seems like a reliable person, just like his mother," said Desiree Hoving, an Amsterdam resident.

"I don't really have an emotional response to him, but I do think it's nice that Maxima is going to be queen."

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Cuba's Castro assumes rotating CELAC presidency

LUIS ANDRES HENAO

Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)

— Cuban President Raul Castro assumed the presidency of the Community

bargo.

Castro was warmly welcomed by his colleagues as he spoke Monday at the closing ceremony of the CELAC summit in Santiago,

the 33 independent nations of our America to build a space for national sovereignty and encourage integration."

Castro said Venezuelan

ber 2011.

Many of the leaders speaking in Santiago described CELAC as a counterweight to the economic and political power of the United States, which for decades froze Cuba out of the Organization of American States and other regional groupings.

"Cuba assumption of the presidency of the CELAC marks a change of times," Argentine President Cristina Fernandez said.

"For Chilean President Sebastian Pinera to transfer the presidency pro tempore to Castro shows the times we're living."

The transfer of power from a Chilean leader to a Castro would indeed have been unthinkable some years ago.

Former Chilean President Salvador Allende committed suicide during the 1973 military coup that ousted his democratically elected socialist government.

He used a rifle that he had received as a gift from Fidel Castro, the current Cuban president's brother.

The dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet then persecuted leftists, and the Chilean government offi-

cially estimates that 3,095 people were killed by his regime.

Leftist Uruguayan President Jose Mujica, a former leftist guerrilla leader imprisoned and tortured during Uruguay's dictatorship, said it was refreshing to meet European presidents and prime ministers on equal terms, for the first time in more than 70 years, "without the boss from the north" at the table.

Conservative voices around the hemisphere, however, have criticized the region's democracies for allowing the Cuban leader to take charge.

"It's hard to take the CELAC seriously when in their foundational charter they put that they're going to defend democracy and then they elect a military dictator as its president," Miami Herald columnist Andres Oppenheimer told The Associated Press.

"It's a joke, he said. 'Either they should abstain from electing Raul Castro as president or they should delete their foundational charters to promoting democracy.

Both, together, are a contradiction that doesn't make sense." □



Cuba's President Raul Castro speaks during the CELAC summit in Santiago, Chile, Monday, Jan. 28, 2013. Castro took over the rotating presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States on Monday in what he says is a show of regional unity against U.S. efforts to isolate the communist government through a 50-year-old economic embargo.

(AP Photo/CELAC, Prensa Cumbre)

of Latin American and Caribbean States on Monday in a demonstration of regional unity against U.S. efforts to isolate the communist government through a 50-year-old economic em-

taking over the rotating presidency from Chile.

He described what he called "a common vision for the Latin American and Caribbean homeland," saying that CELAC "joins

President Hugo Chavez had helped realize South American independence hero Simon Bolivar's dream of unifying the region by negotiating the creation of the CELAC bloc in Decem-

Antigua gets WTO's OK to become copyright haven

RAPHAEL SATTER

Associated Press

LONDON (AP)

— Americans call it piracy. Antiguanians call it justice. The islands of Antigua and Barbuda are threatening to strip intellectual property protections from American goods as part of a long-running trade dispute over the U.S. embargo on the tiny Caribbean nation's online gambling industry. U.S. officials say the proposed copyright haven — whose broad outlines were approved Monday at the World Trade Organization in Geneva — amounts to "government-authorized piracy." But Antiguanians, who've won a series of legal victories against the U.S. at the international trade body, reject any suggestion that they're pi-

rates.

"We have followed the rules and procedures of the WTO to the letter," Antigua's high commissioner to London, Carl Roberts, said in a statement Monday. "Our little country is doing precisely what it has earned the right to do under international agreements."

The U.S. and Antigua have been tussling for years over the ability of Americans to use online casinos based in the Caribbean nation. U.S. laws have long been interpreted to mean that Internet gambling is illegal if it crosses state lines.

The World Trade Organization, however, has come down on Antigua's side. In 2007, it allowed the islands to draw \$21 million a year's worth of "nullification or

impairments" from the United States as a penalty for the continuing refusal of the U.S. to allow American customers to place their online bets in Antigua.

Antiguan officials say they could make up the money through the operation of a copyright haven, although



Britain's Prince Charles talks to, from left, the High Commissioner for the Bahamas Mr Eldred Edison Bethel, his wife Dawne, the High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda Mr Dr Carl Roberts and his wife Pauline during a reception for High Commissioners representing Commonwealth realm nations at Clarence House in central London.

(AP Photo/PA, John Stillwell)

what that might look like and what its scope would be remains unclear. Antiguan officials have kept details vague and the move has little precedent. Observers have suggested, for example, a subscription service to access copyright-free American music, or a pay-per-download site that charges pennies for Hollywood hits.

Mark Mendel, a lawyer for Antigua's government, cautioned that whatever ends up being set up, it wouldn't be an Antiguan version of The Pirate Bay, the free-for-all file sharing site whose name has become synonymous with illegal downloads.

"We aren't going to be flaunting the rules," he said in a telephone interview last week. □

Willem-Alexander to be first Dutch king since 1890

Continued from front

Despite regular public appearances, Willem-Alexander is also fiercely private, giving reporters and photographers brief, choreographed glimpses of his family in return for being left in peace the rest of the time.

"He and Princess Maxima are fully prepared for their future roles," Beatrix said. "They will serve our nation with dedication, faithfully preserve the constitution and bring all their talents to the monarchy."

Despite her popularity, Maxima has always carried an air of controversy because her father was an agriculture minister in the military junta that ruled Argentina with an iron fist in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

In a move that may curtail possible protests, the Royal House said that Maxima told Prime Minister Mark Rutte that her parents will not attend the inauguration.

In her brief, prerecorded speech from her Huis ten Bosch Palace in The Hague, Beatrix said she was, "deeply grateful for the great faith you have shown in me in the many years that I could be your queen."

The queen's departure is sure to bring about an outpouring of sentimental and patriotic feelings among the Dutch, most of whom adore Beatrix. In everyday conversation, many of her subjects refer to her simply by the nickname "Bea."

Well-wishers immediately gathered outside the palace Monday.

One of them, Laura Dinkshof, took along a homemade orange banner. "We hope the queen will see it," she said. "It says we were very happy with our queen and we wish her a nice retirement and that we have trust in our new king."

Rutte, a staunch monarchist, said that ever since her coronation in 1980, Beatrix — the nation's oldest-ever monarch — "applied

herself heart and soul for Dutch society."

Beatrix succeeded her mother, Juliana, as head of state, and her reign has been marked by tumultuous shifts in Dutch society and, more recently, by personal tragedy.

Observers believe Beatrix remained on the throne for so long in part because of unrest in Dutch society as

to enjoy fatherhood before taking the throne.

The abdication also comes at a time of trial for Beatrix. A year ago, she was struck by personal tragedy when the second of her three sons, Prince Friso, was left in a coma after being engulfed by an avalanche while skiing in Austria.

And even in a job that is mostly symbolic to begin

dam at her inauguration, as thousands of demonstrators protesting the city's housing shortages fought pitched battles with police just a few hundred meters (yards) from the downtown palace where she was crowned.

But throughout her tenure she was a calming influence on society, particularly in the aftermath of the

her subjects.

The death of her German-born husband, Prince Claus, took a toll on her, and it was apparent how deep her reliance on the quiet man had been: she was filmed leaning heavily, almost hanging, on Prince Friso's arm as they entered the church for her spouse's funeral.

"I think it's a good time for



Dutch Queen Beatrix, right, and Dutch Crown Prince Willem-Alexander, left, wave to wellwishers from the balcony of Royal Palace Noordeinde in The Hague, Netherlands. Queen Beatrix announced her April 30, 2013, abdication in a prerecorded speech in The Hague, Netherlands, Monday Jan. 28, 2013. Beatrix, who turns 75 on Thursday, has ruled the nation of 16 million for more than 32 years. Beatrix will be succeeded by her eldest son, Crown Prince Willem-Alexander, which will make him the first Dutch king since 1890.

(AP Photo/Peter Dejong)

the country struggled to assimilate more and more immigrants, mainly Muslims from North Africa, and shifted away from its traditional reputation as one of the world's most tolerant nations.

Beatrix was also thought to be giving time for her son

with, the previous government stripped her of one of her few remaining powers: the ability to name a candidate to begin Cabinet formation after the election of the national parliament. Beatrix's reign began in difficult economic times and there were riots in Amster-

2002 assassination of populist politician Pim Fortuyn and the murder two years later of filmmaker Theo van Gogh by a Muslim extremist.

In more recent years, personal tragedies exposed a softer side of the queen and brought her closer to

her to leave, with all that happened in her life recently," said 44-year-old Bert Duesenberg of The Hague as he stood at her palace gates. "I also think that Alexander is ready to take over and he has to do that. It is good news and it's time for the change." □

Senators call bipartisan immigration plan a 'breakthrough'

ASHLEY PARKER

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WASHINGTON – A bipartisan group of senators unveiled on Monday a set of principles for comprehensive immigration legislation that includes a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million immigrants already in the country illegally, contingent on first securing the nation's borders.

The group hopes to have legislation drafted by March, and a vote before the August recess. Speaker John A. Boehner, whose support will be crucial for shepherding any bill through the Republican-controlled House, did not comment on the principles, but his office offered a brief statement.

"The speaker welcomes the work of leaders like Senator Rubio on this issue," referring to Marco Rubio, R-Fla. The speaker "is looking forward to learning more about the proposal in the coming days," said Michael Steel, a spokesman for Boehner.

Five of the group's eight senators – Charles E. Schumer of New York,

Richard J. Durbin of Illinois and Robert Menendez of New Jersey, all Democrats; and Rubio and a fellow Republican, John McCain of Arizona – made the announcement. Sens. Jeff Flake of Arizona and Lind-

sey Graham of South Carolina, both Republicans, and Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado, a Democrat, were not present but are part of the group.

The eight senators, Schumer said, "have come to-

gether on a set of bipartisan principles for comprehensive immigration reform legislation that we hope can pass the Senate in overwhelming and bipartisan fashion."

"We still have a long way

to go, but this bipartisan movement is a major breakthrough," he said.

The group described four main pillars: border enforcement, employer enforcement, the handling of the flow of legal immigration (including temporary agricultural workers and high-skilled engineers) and a pathway to citizenship for those who entered the nation illegally. McCain called the pathway to citizenship the "most controversial piece of immigration reform," saying that the current situation amounts to "de facto amnesty" and that the illegal immigrants deserve a chance to live legally in the country and ultimately become citizens.

"We have been too content for too long to allow individuals to mow our lawn, serve our food, clean our homes and even watch our children, while not affording them any of the benefits that make our country so great," he said. "I think everyone agrees that it's not beneficial to our country to have these people hidden in the shadows."

Schumer said he and Durbin spoke Sunday evening with President Barack Obama, who plans to deliver his own speech on immigration Tuesday in Nevada, and that "he couldn't be more pleased." Menendez met with the president Friday as part of a meeting that the White House held with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Democratic and Republican senators alike had feared that any White House proposal could undercut their efforts by frightening away Republican lawmakers skittish about backing Obama's plan. When it became clear last week that the president planned to detail his own immigration blueprint Tuesday, they rushed to make their announcement ahead of him. When asked if the senators' proposal was undercutting the president, McCain replied that he thought their principles helped Obama. □



Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), center, at a news conference with other Democratic and Republican U.S. Senators on Capitol Hill, in Washington, Jan. 28, 2013. The bipartisan group has agreed on a set of principles for a sweeping overhaul of the immigration system, including a pathway to American citizenship for 11 million illegal immigrants. From left: Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Rubio, Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Bob Menendez (D-N.J.).

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

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Scouts considering retreat from no-gays policy

DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Boy Scouts of America may soon give sponsors of troops the authority to decide whether to accept gays as scouts and leaders — a potentially dramatic retreat from an exclusionary nationwide policy that has provoked relentless protests.

Under the change now being discussed, the different religious and civic groups that sponsor Scout units would be able to decide for themselves how to address the issue — either maintaining an exclusion of gays, as is now required of all units, or opening up their membership.

Gay-rights activists were elated at the prospect of change, sensing another milestone to go along with recent advances for same-sex marriage and the end of the ban on gays serving openly in the military.

However, Southern Baptist leaders — who consider homosexuality a sin — were furious about the possible change and said its approval might encourage Southern Baptist churches to support other boys' organizations instead of the BSA.

Monday's announcement of the possible change comes after years of protests over the no-gays policy — including petition campaigns that have prompted some corporations to suspend donations

to the Boy Scouts.

Under the proposed change, said BSA spokesman Deron Smith, "the Boy Scouts would not, under any circumstances, dictate a position to units, members, or parents."

Smith said the change could be announced as early as next week, after BSA's national board concludes a regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 6. The meeting will be closed to the public.

The BSA, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2010, has long excluded both gays and atheists. Smith said a change in the policy toward atheists was not being considered, and that the BSA continued to view "Duty to God" as one of its basic principles.

Protests over the no-gays policy gained momentum in 2000, when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the BSA's right to exclude gays. Scout units lost sponsorships by public schools and other entities that adhered to nondiscrimination policies, and several local Scout councils made public their displeasure with the policy. More recently, amid petition campaigns, shipping giant UPS Inc. and drug-manufacturer Merck announced that they were halting donations from their charitable foundations to the Boy Scouts as long as the no-gays policy was in force.

Also, local Scout officials drew widespread criticism

in recent months for ousting Jennifer Tyrrell, a lesbian mom, as a den leader of her son's Cub Scout pack and for refusing to approve an Eagle Scout application by Ryan Andresen, a teen who came out as gay last fall.

Tyrrell said she's thrilled for parents and their children who've been excluded from scouting and "for those who are in Scouts and hiding who they are."

"For me it's not just about the Boy Scouts of America, it's about equality," she told The Associated Press. "This is a step toward equality in all aspects."

Many of the protest campaigns, including one seeking Tyrrell's reinstatement, had been waged with help from the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

"The Boy Scouts of America have heard from scouts, corporations and millions of Americans that discriminating against gay scouts and scout leaders is wrong," said Herndon Graddick, GLAAD's president. "Scouting is a valuable institution, and this

change will only strengthen its core principles of fairness and respect."

The Scouts had reaffirmed the no-gays policy as recently as last year, and appeared to have strong backing from conservative religious denominations — notably the Mormons, Roman Catholics and Southern Baptists — which sponsor large numbers of Scout units. Under the proposed change, they could continue excluding gays.

Prior to Monday's announcement, the BSA conferred with some leaders of these religious groups, although there were no official statements as to how they would respond.

Said Sister Mary Ann Walsh, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "The bishops hope the Boy Scouts will continue to work under the Judeo-Christians principles upon which they were founded and under which they have served youth well."

Were the change adopted, said Deron Smith, "there would no longer be any national policy re-

garding sexual orientation, and the chartered organizations that oversee and deliver Scouting would accept membership and select leaders consistent with each organization's mission, principles, or religious beliefs.

"BSA members and parents would be able to choose a local unit that best meets the needs of their families," he said. "Under this proposed policy, the BSA would not require any chartered organization to act in ways inconsistent with that organization's mission, principles, or religious beliefs."

The announcement came shortly after new data showed that membership in the Cub Scouts — the BSA's biggest division — dropped sharply last year, and was down nearly 30 percent over the past 14 years.

According to figures provided by the organization, Cub Scout ranks dwindled by 3.4 percent, from 1,583,166 in 2011 to 1,528,673 in 2012. That's down from 2.17 million in 1998. □

US Congress passes \$50.5B Superstorm Sandy aid bill

ANDREW MIGA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress is sending a \$50.5 billion emergency relief measure for Superstorm Sandy victims to President Barack Obama for his signature. The Senate on Monday cleared the bill, 62-36. Northeast lawmakers say the money is desperately needed to help recovery efforts from the one of the region's worst storms. New Jersey and New York were especially hard-hit. The

House passed the bill two weeks ago.

The measure is aimed primarily at helping residents and businesses as well as state and local governments rebuild from the Oct. 29 storm. It passed despite opposition from fiscal conservatives worried about adding to deficits.

Sandy roared up the East Coast and has been blamed for more than 130 deaths and billions of dollars in residential and business property damage. □

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Missile launcher shows up at Seattle gun buyback

SEATTLE (AP) — Seattle police worked with Army officials Monday to track down the history of a non-functional missile launcher that showed up at a weapons buyback program and determine whether it was legal or possibly stolen from the military.

A man standing outside the event Saturday bought the military weapon for \$100 from another person there, according to Detective Mark Jamieson.

The single-use device is a launch tube assembly for a Stinger portable surface-to-air missile and already had been used.

As a controlled military item, it is not available to civilians through any surplus or disposal program offered by the government, according to Jamieson.

Seattle police have contacted Army officials at Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma to deputy chief Nick Metz said Monday.

"Once it's brought on base and investigators have a chance to look at it, they'll see what they can determine,"

Army spokesman Joe Kubistek said Monday. "It's too early to give any information on it until we have hands-on access to see it and take a look at it."

Police witnessed the private exchange of the military launch tube near the gun buyback event, where gun buyers tempted those standing in long lines to turn in their weapons with cash.

"It was absolutely crazy

what we saw out there," Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn said at a news conference Monday where

ing private hands without knowing whether the person buying the gun had the legal right to buy it,



Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn, right, speaks, referring to a fraction of the 716 guns obtained by Seattle during Saturday's gun buyback, seen during a news conference, Monday, Jan. 28, 2013, in Seattle. At left is King County Exec. Dow Constantine. Seattle police worked with Army officials to track down the history of the nonfunctional missile launcher that showed up at a weapons buyback program and determine whether it was legal or possibly stolen from the military.

(AP Photo/The Seattle Times, Ken Lambert)

officials announced they had collected a total of 716 weapons, including four confirmed as stolen. Officers saw guns chang-

and those transactions are occurring all the time, McGinn said.

He added that the private sales of the missile launch

tube and other weapons illustrate the need for comprehensive background checks as proposed by President Barack Obama, as well as other regulations at the state level.

While there were private gun buyers at the periphery of Saturday's event, Metz said a large majority of people chose to wait in line and get less money because they wanted to make sure they got the weapons off the streets.

"These are very dangerous weapons," Metz said.

"They may not have looked very pretty, but (they're) definitely operable."

The firearms collected included 348 pistols, 364 rifles and three so-called street sweepers, or shotguns that include a high capacity magazine capable of holding twelve 12-gauge shotgun shells.

The program allowed people to anonymously turn in their weapons for a shopping gift card worth up to \$200 -- \$100 for each handgun, rifle or shotgun turned in, and \$200 for each gun classified as an assault weapon under state law. Officials distributed about \$70,000 in gift cards at Saturday's event.

McGinn said he wanted to plan another buyback event soon and urged more donations to the program.

Meanwhile, police said citizens who wanted to turn in guns could do so at any time outside a buyback program, though they wouldn't be compensated for it. □

Chicago has 40 homicides in January

DON BABWIN
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A bloody weekend in which seven people were killed and six wounded has put an abrupt end — at least for now — to hopes that Chicago was at least putting a lid on its frightening homicide rate.

With a few days left in the month, the nation's third-largest city now finds itself on the cusp of its deadliest January in more than a decade. The news comes just after Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy had announced that after several violent months, Chicago had seen a drop in homicides at the end of 2012 and for the first few weeks of 2013.

Police say the homicide rate is a reflection of the city's gang problem and a proliferation of guns. Chicago has for years tried to cut off the flow of guns. It has what city officials have called the strictest handgun ordinance in the U.S. But police officials say more needs to be done and that penalties for violating gun laws should be stiffer.

Among those killed over the weekend was 34-year-old Ronnie Chambers, who was shot in the head with what police believe was an assault weapon. Such guns are banned in Chicago but can be purchased legally in the suburbs or nearby states. Chambers is the fourth child of Shirley Chambers to fall victim to gun violence. □

Marketing extreme 'fixer-uppers' in the Rockaways

ELIZABETH A. HARRIS

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK — Last summer, a real estate broker in the Rockaways named Lisa Jackson sold an oceanfront home on Beach 146th Street for \$5.1 million. It had five bedrooms and seven bathrooms, and was one of the most expensive private homes ever sold in Queens. But today, three months after Hurricane Sandy tore and spat its way through the tristate area, Jackson's roster of properties includes a much grimmer set.

She has the charred stump of a home that burned to the ground the night of the storm; she has a house with a gaping hole in its facade, staring out at the chilly sea; and she has had two oceanfront lots standing bare because their houses were ripped apart, or washed away entirely. The buying and selling of homes in the Rockaways slammed to a halt right after Hurricane Sandy, but a few homes and plots of land are on the market today.

And while under more normal circumstances, properties put up for sale are buffed and polished to their highest possible shine, many of the most badly damaged homes are being offered to buyers more or less as the hurricane left them.

"It's sad to see houses like this, and it's also much harder to show," Jackson said, standing in a thicket of bare beams inside a gutted bungalow. "There are some houses where I

have to climb over beams to get inside because the front door — we can't get it open.

"People ask me, 'Should I fix my house and then put it up?' But I don't know if the value will be there. So I say let's put it up as is, and let's see what happens."

increased insurance premiums and stricter building standards seem a certainty, and the look of the place, he added, is a problem.

"Remember, you're marketing to people, and this damage is really in your face," he said. "Even if you

they are shallow mounds of blackened debris, or just holes in the ground. Jackson's listing, 415 Beach 130th St. in Belle Harbor, is little more than front steps and a lonely screen door along the side. Nearby, a tree on the sidewalk is still strung with jack-o'-lantern

in contract, she said) are people who already live in the area. It seems that the memory of the perfect beach day before the storm makes them more willing to risk owning a property that took a beating, or even one that was destroyed.

Brian Elgart bought a plot of oceanfront land on Beach 140th Street that was all but washed away. "It's right next to my house," Elgart, who is a landlord and an accountant, said of the plot he purchased. "If it wasn't, there's no way."

Elgart bought his own oceanfront home on Beach 139th Street for \$3.2 million in 2011, and he was in contract to buy the place next door when the storm ripped it away. His own house, he said, was also badly damaged by the hurricane, and since an extensive rebuilding process lay ahead for him in any case, he and his family decided to buy the lot next door and expand into it.

They paid \$1.5 million, which according to the seller, Martin J. Ain, who had owned the house for 40 years, was more than \$1 million less than the original contract price. But Ain said it was a loss he and his wife, Ingrid, were willing to accept.

"Whether you believe in global warming or not, you can look at the statistics," Ain said.

"After Irene," he went on, "my wife and I said, 'We've had good years here, and we're ready to go.'"



Lisa Jackson, a real estate broker, walks near one of her post-hurricane property listings in the Rockaways neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York. After Hurricane Sandy, it is difficult to tell where home values in the Rockaways would head in the long term, in a rattled market where many of the most badly damaged homes are being offered to buyers more or less as the hurricane left them. (Todd Heisler/The New York Times)

Jonathan Miller, president of the appraisal firm Miller Samuel, said it was too soon to tell where home values in the Rockaways would head in the long term, in part because if yet another hundred-year storm hit again soon, the market would be deeply rattled. In the short term, higher costs of living from

don't believe there's going to be a storm like this again, the visual presentation is unsettling."

One particularly eerie property for sale is on a street lined with rows of giant green trash bins, but with no houses on a long stretch of the block.

They all burned down the night of the storm. Today,

Halloween lights.

And yet the property is under contract, Jackson said, being purchased by someone who lives on the street. Indeed, most of the buyers Jackson has found since the storm (the company she owns, Rockaway Properties, has closed on three deals and has about a half-dozen properties

Sandy Hook parents' testimony reflects divide on guns

RAY RIVERA

PETER APPLEBOME

© 2013 New York Times

HARTFORD, Conn. — Highlighting deep divisions in Connecticut over firearms legislation, hundreds of people packed into the state Capitol on Monday for a hearing on gun laws, among them two Newtown victims' fathers, who took opposing sides.

"The sole purpose of those

AR-15s or AK-47s is to put a lot of lead out on the battlefield quickly, and that's what they do and that's what they did at Sandy Hook Elementary School," said Neil Heslin, whose 6-year-old son, Jesse Lewis, was among the 20 first-graders and six staff members killed there. Heslin told lawmakers that he had grown up around guns and was the son of an avid

hunter, but that he believed there was no reason any civilian should have an assault-style weapon like the one used to kill his son. "That wasn't just a killing; that was a massacre," he said. "Those children and those victims were shot apart. And my son was one of them."

But Mark Mattioli, whose son James, 6, was also killed at Sandy Hook Ele-

mentary on Dec. 14, said: "I believe in a few simple gun laws. I think we have more than enough on the books. We should hold people individually accountable for their actions."

"The problem is not gun laws," he added. "The problem is a lack of civility." Mattioli said he also thought some liberals were using the attack in Newtown to spread fear on gun

issues.

The hearing, one of several scheduled by the Legislature's Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety, was scheduled to continue all day. More than 1,300 people, including relatives, gun control advocates, gun rights advocates and gun industry representatives, had signed up to testify. □

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Egyptians show defiance against President Morsi

HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Protesters battled police for hours in Cairo on Monday and thousands marched through Egypt's three Suez Canal cities in direct defiance of a night-time curfew and state of emergency, handing a blow to the Islamist President Mohammed Morsi's attempts to contain five days of spiraling political violence.

Nearly 60 people have been killed in the wave of unrest, clashes, rioting and protests that have touched cities across the country but have hit the hardest in the canal cities, where residents have virtually risen up in outright revolt.

The latest death came on Monday in Cairo, where a protester died of gunshot wounds as youths hurling stones battled all day and into the night with police firing tear gas near Qasr el-Nil Bridge, a landmark over the Nile next to major hotels. In nearby Tahrir Square, protesters set fire to a police armored personnel carrier, celebrating as it burned in scenes reminiscent of the 2011 revolution that ousted Hosni Mubarak.

"I will be coming back here every day until the blood of our martyrs is avenged," said 19-year-old carpenter Islam Nasser, who wore a Guy Fawkes mask as he battled police near Tahrir square.

Angry and at times screaming and wagging his finger, Morsi on Sunday declared a 30-day state of emergency and a nighttime curfew on the three Suez Canal cities of Suez, Ismailiya and Port Said and their prov-

inces of the same names. He said he had instructed the police to deal "firmly

ism?" said Ahmed Nabil, a schoolteacher in the Mediterranean coastal city.

the violence — to restore security, but they did not intervene to enforce the



A masked Egyptian protester part of the Black Bloc, flashes the victory sign during clashes with riot police, background, near Tahrir Square, Cairo, Egypt, Monday, Jan. 28, 2013. An unpredictable new element has entered Egypt's wave of political unrest, a mysterious group of black-masked young men calling themselves the Black Bloc. They present themselves as the defenders of protesters against the rule of President Mohammed Morsi, but Islamists have used them to depict the opposition as a violent force wrecking the nation.

(AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

and forcefully" with the unrest and threatened to do more if security was not restored.

But when the 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew began Monday evening, crowds marched through the streets of Port Said, beating drums and chanting, "Erhal, erhal," or "Leave, leave" — a chant that first rang out during the 18-day uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak in 2011 but is now directed at Morsi.

"We completely reject Morsi's measures. How can we have a curfew in a city whose livelihood depends on commerce and tour-

In Suez and Ismailiya, thousands in the streets after curfew chanted against Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist group from which he hails. In Suez, residents let off fireworks that lit the night sky.

"Oh Morsi, Suez has real men," they chanted. In Ismailiya, residents organized street games of soccer to emphasize their contempt for the curfew and state of emergency.

On Morsi's orders over the weekend, army troops backed with tanks and armored vehicles have deployed in Port Said and Suez — the two cities worst hit by

curfew on Monday night. The commander of the Third Field Army in charge of Suez, Maj. Gen. Osama Askar, said his troops would not use force to ensure compliance. Army troops in Port Said also stood by and watched as residents ignored the curfew.

Adding to Morsi's woes nearly seven months into his turbulent presidency, the main political opposition coalition on Monday rejected his invitation for a dialogue to resolve the crisis, one of the worst and deadliest to hit Egypt in the two years since Mubarak's ouster. □

France warning extremists could prevail in Syria

ELAINE GANLEY
ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian opposition leaders pleaded Monday for funds and political backing from the international community as France warned that extremists could prevail in Syria if nations fail to honor their pledges of support. The warning from French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius reflects growing concern over the rising power of Islamic militant groups that have joined the rebels fighting to topple Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime.

"Let us be clear. In the face of the collapse of a state and society, it is the extremist groups that risk gaining ground if we do not act as we should," Fabius told envoys from more than 50 nations gathered in Paris.

"Chaos is not tomorrow, it is today, and we need to end it. We need to end it in a peaceful way and that means increased and concrete support to the Syrian National Coalition," an umbrella group for the opposition.

Islamic militants have been the most organized fighters battling government troops in the 22-month-old conflict in which more than 60,000 people have been killed.

Their growing prominence has fueled fears that Muslim radicals might try to hijack the revolt, and has contributed to the West's hesitance to equip the opposition with sophisticated weapons. □



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A view of the street with the hostel where Sarai Sierra, a New York City woman, 33, was staying in Istanbul, Turkey, Monday, Jan. 28, 2013. Police in Istanbul were scanning security camera footage Monday to try to trace Sierra who went missing while vacationing alone in the city, a Turkish official said. A police official said authorities were reviewing footage from around Istanbul's Taksim neighborhood — the city's main hub where she was staying at a hostel.

(AP Photo)

SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Police in Istanbul were

scanning security camera footage Monday to try to trace a New York City woman who went missing

Istanbul police searching for traces of missing US woman

while vacationing alone in the city, an official said.

Sarai Sierra, 33, was last in touch with her family on Jan. 21, the day she was supposed to fly home after two weeks in Turkey.

A police official said authorities were reviewing footage from around Istanbul's Taksim neighborhood — the city's main hub where she was staying at a hostel.

Several police teams have also been dispatched to surrounding neighborhoods to find possible clues and witnesses, the official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity, in line with government rules that bar

civil servants from speaking to reporters without prior authorization.

Turkey's private Dogan news agency meanwhile, reported that police had established that Sierra had traveled to Amsterdam, Netherlands, from Istanbul on Jan. 15 and then journeyed on to Munich, Germany, on Jan. 16, before returning to Istanbul on Jan. 19.

Police were trying to determine the reason for her visit to the European cities, the report said.

Police were also trying to find the identity of a person she had been chatting with on the Internet, Dogan re-

ported.

Another police official, contacted by The Associated Press, confirmed that Sierra had made a brief trip to Europe,

but refused to provide further details. He also spoke on condition of anonymity saying he was not authorized to speak publicly about the investigation.

Before she went missing, the mother-of-two told family members that she planned to take some photographs at Galata Bridge, a well-known tourist destination about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) away from Taksim that spans the Golden Horn waterway. □

UK: Reports of threat against Tripoli embassy

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Foreign Office says reports have emerged about a potential threat against the U.K. embassy in Tripoli, the capital of Libya.

The agency said Monday it was working closely with the Libyan government in response to the reports. It would not elaborate,

but its statement came at a time of heightened tensions in North Africa.

Last week the British government joined Germany, the Netherlands and Canada in urging their citizens

to evacuate the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi in response to what was described as an imminent threat to Westerners.

Libya remains unstable following the 2011 civil war that overthrew long-time dictator Moammar Gadhafi. Britain has not changed its travel advice, which recommends against all but essential travel to Tripoli.

Elsewhere in North Africa, French and African land forces are battling al-Qaida-linked Islamists in north-

ern Mali, while a renewed bout of unrest has gripped Egypt following the two-year anniversary of the revolution that toppled

strongman Hosni Mubarak. In addition, a Jan. 16 terror attack on

Algeria's Ain Amenas natural gas plant in the Sahara

ignited a four-day siege with Algerian forces in which at least 37 hostages and 29 militants were killed. □


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Rape suspect to be tried as juvenile: India

NIRMALA GEORGE
Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — A juvenile court ruled Monday that a suspect in the fatal gang rape of a young woman in New Delhi last month was a juvenile at the time of the attack.

A lawyer present in the court said a magistrate of the Juvenile Justice Board announced the decision after going over documents presented to the court by officials of the suspect's elementary school that indicated that he was under 18 years of age at the time of the Dec. 16 attack. The lawyer could not be named because he was not authorized to brief media. The lawyer said that the suspect's school documents showed him to be about six months short of his 18th birthday at the time of the attack.

The suspect did not possess a birth certificate — a common occurrence in India where many babies are born at home and not in a hospital. In such cases, school records are often used as proof of age or identity. The suspect, who is not being identified by The Associated Press because of his age, could face three years in a reform facility if he is convicted as a juvenile. A conviction as an adult could have led to his execution.

Police say the 23-year-old victim and a male friend boarded the bus on Dec. 16 after seeing an evening movie. But the bus turned out to be off-duty and was being driven by a group of friends who, police say, attacked the couple and then took turns raping the woman. They also penetrated her repeatedly with a metal bar, causing massive internal injuries. The two were eventually dumped on the roadside. The woman died two weeks later in a Singapore hospital.

Meanwhile, a fast-track court was separately hearing arguments Monday in the trial of the five men charged with the attack. □

US envoy urges North Korea against nuke test

M. YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — A U.S. envoy said Monday that North Korea is playing a dangerous game with the international community by threatening a nuclear test and urged the communist nation to scrap its plan.



U.S. envoy for North Korea Glyn Davies speaks to reporters after meeting with his Japanese counterpart Shinsuke Sugiyama at Japan's Foreign Ministry Monday, Jan. 28, 2013.

(AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

Glyn Davies, U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Policy, urged Pyongyang to return to its international obligations

in abandoning its nuclear programs.

"We find North Korea that seems bent on playing a game of risk. This is very dangerous," he told reporters after meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Shinsuke Sugiyama, in Tokyo to discuss the anti-

pated nuclear test.

Davies was in Japan following similar talks with South Korean officials in Seoul over the weekend.

North Korea's top governing body warned last Thursday the regime would conduct another nuclear test. It said its long-range rockets are designed to carry not only satellites but also warheads and are capable of striking the U.S.

On Sunday, North Korea said leader Kim Jong Un had ordered top security and foreign affairs officials to take "substantial and high-profile important state measures." The move fueled speculation that North Korea is going ahead with plans to explode a nuclear device in defiance of the United Nations.

The United States has urged North Korea to return to its obligations under a September 2005 joint statement and abandon its nuclear programs in exchange for aid and a pledge that Washington wouldn't seek the regime's fall.

Davies said he was not optimistic, but warned North

Korea of the consequences of its actions.

"If they go in the direction of testing a nuclear device, they are going to set back the prospect of any diplomatic process going forward. So, that kind of a provocative approach to dealing with the outside world will not serve their interests ultimately," Davies said.

China also expressed alarm about a nuclear test. "China is highly concerned about the relevant developments.

China is opposed to any acts that might escalate tension or undermine the denuclearization of the peninsula. We hope the relevant sides can remain calm and restrained and earnestly maintain the peace and stability of Northeast Asia," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei told a daily briefing in Beijing. Hong repeated China's appeal for dialogue. □

Mexico: 10 bodies found where band went missing

PORFIRIO IBARRA
Associated Press

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)

— Searchers pulled 10 bodies from a well in northern Mexico on Monday, near the site where 20 members of a Colombian-style music group and its crew disappeared late last week, according to a state forensic official. It was hard to determine how many more bodies were submersed in the water, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment publicly on the case. Nuevo Leon state Gov. Rodrigo Medina earlier told a local television station, "We have evidence that indicates that (the bodies) may very well be the members of this band," though he said experts were still working to identify the corpses. Sixteen members of the band Kombo Kolombia and four crew members were reported missing early Friday after playing for a private show

at a bar in the town of Hidalgo north of Monterrey.

The forensic official said authorities had been searching for two days when they came upon the well Sunday along a dirt road in the town of Mina, about 140 miles (225 kilometers) from

Laredo, Texas. People living near the bar in Hidalgo reported hearing gunshots at about 4 a.m. Friday, followed by the sound of vehicles speeding away, said a separate source with the Nuevo Leon State Investigative Agency. He also

spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to be quoted by the news media.

The officials added that gunfire is common in the area and said investigators found spent bullets nearby. □



Nuevo Leon state police stand guard on a dirt road in northern Mexico, Monday, Jan. 28, 2013. At least 10 bodies were found in a well in the area where 20 people went missing late last week, including members of a Colombian-style band, according to a state forensic official.

(AP Photo/Emilio Vazquez)

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Several Australian towns flooded, 4 people killed

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Torrential rains have left thousands of homes flood-

ed in eastern Australia, with more rain and high winds expected in Queensland

and New South Wales. The disaster has claimed four lives, including a

3-year-old boy who was hit by a falling tree in the Queensland state capital, Brisbane, the Australian Associated Press said Monday.

It said officials were preparing for another day of evacuations along the eastern coast, where hundreds of homes have been cut off by floodwaters.

State Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Steve Pearce told the AAP that some areas in northern New South Wales had been hit by more than half a meter (about 20 inches) of rain, with more than 2,000 people isolated by floodwaters.

"We're expecting flash flooding, we're expecting

trees to be brought down, wires to be brought down by these winds," Pearce said.

"We're expecting a very challenging 24 hours in front of us."

Floodwaters have also cut off all roads between New South Wales and Queensland.

More than 2,000 homes are underwater in the worst-affected city of Bundaberg 385 kilometers (240 miles) to the north of Brisbane. The same area was hit by serious flooding two years ago, leaving 35 dead.

AAP said military helicopters with pilots using night vision equipment were being used to evacuate stranded residents. □



People use umbrellas to fend off the rain as they walk through a park in Sydney, Australia, Monday, Jan. 28, 2013. Torrential rain over the weekend flooded several towns in eastern Australia, and three deaths were reported. (AP Photo/Rick Rycroft)

China police pressure whistleblower holding sex tapes of city bureaucrats

GILLIAN WONG
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese whistleblower holding secretly filmed sex tapes featuring city bureaucrats has come under pressure from police to hand them over for an investigation into an embarrassing scandal that has already cashiered 11 officials.

Police questioned Zhu Ruitong, a former journalist who triggered the scandal in the southwestern city of Chongqing, for seven hours Monday about the tapes and said he could be liable for prosecution if he did not surrender them.

"The police were very polite but they said they wanted the videos.

I firmly refused to give it to them because I have to protect my source. This is impossible," said Zhu, who lives in Beijing but was, he said, interviewed by Chongqing police officers. "They threatened me with the law, saying I could be accused of concealing evidence."

The first high-profile case broke in November after Zhu released online a video of a 50-something Communist Party district official having sex with a woman allegedly hired by developers in an extortion bid.

The leak led to the official's firing but the scandal broadened Friday as 10 other officials also caught on sex tapes were sacked.

Few details have been officially released but state media reports say the bureaucrats had sex with women hired by developers who secretly videotaped the trysts and later used the footage to extort construction deals from them.

The expanding scandal comes as China's newly installed leadership has vowed to crack down on rampant official corruption that threatens the party's legitimacy. Even as China's new Communist Party chief Xi Jinping has repeatedly pledged to strike hard against graft, authorities have been faced with a steady stream of bribery cases and other malfeasance. □

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Three detained in Brazil nightclub fire

J. BARBASSA

Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Brazil (AP)

— There was no fire alarm. There were no sprinklers or fire escapes. And when a band member tried to put out a fire that had been started by pyrotechnics, the extinguisher didn't work.

All the elements were in place for the tragedy at the Kiss nightclub early Sunday. The result was the world's worst fire of its kind in more than a decade, with 231 people dead and this southern Brazilian college town in shock and mourning.

Funerals began on Mon-

outdated safety codes and ensuring sufficient inspectors, people also have to change their way of thinking and respect safety regulations, they said.

"A problem in Brazil is that there is no control of how many people are admitted in a building," said Joao Daniel Nunes, a civil engineer in nearby Porto Alegre. "They never are clearly stated, and nobody controls how many people enter these night clubs."

Brazilian police said they detained three people in connection with the blaze, while the newspaper O Globo said on its website that a fourth person had

Zero Hora said police also detained two members of the band. The band's guitarist told Brazilian media he saw flames lick the ceiling after the group's spark machine was deployed.

More than 100 people remained hospitalized for smoke, local officials said. Paulo Afonso Beltrame, a doctor helping coordinate the emergency response, said he was optimistic that those injured would pull through.

"It's impossible to predict what will happen, because they are all in a very delicate state, but there's hope for all of them," said Beltrame, adding that



Mauro Hoffmann, right, co-owner of the Kiss nightclub, is escorted by police as he voluntarily surrenders at a police station in Santa Maria, Brazil, Monday, Jan. 28, 2013. Brazilian police said they detained other people in connection with the blaze. (AP Photo/Nabor Goulart)

day, as reports continued to emerge about the accumulation of neglect and errors at the packed night spot.

According to state safety codes here, clubs should have one fire extinguisher every 1,500 square feet as well as multiple emergency exits. Limits on the number of people admitted are to be strictly respected. None of that appears to have happened at the Santa Maria nightclub.

As the country continued Monday to digest the scale of the tragedy, some critics have said conditions in many bars and clubs here are ripe for another deadly blaze. In addition to modernizing sometimes

surrendered to police. Police Inspector Ranolfo Vieira Junior said the detentions were part of the ongoing police probe and those detained can be held for up to five days.

Vieira declined to identify those detained, but the Brazilian newspaper Zero Hora quotes lawyer Jader Marques saying his client Elissandro Spohr, a co-owner of the club, had been held. Globo reported that the fourth person detained was a club co-owner. G1, Globo Television's internet portal, reported that Spohr acknowledged the club's operating license was not up to date but said the pyrotechnics show started the blaze.

more than 40 survivors had been sent to neighboring cities for treatment of burns and smoke inhalation. "One of the problems we're having here is that all these people need to be on respirators and we don't have enough respirators in the city."

Funeral services were held for several of the 231 victims, most of them college students 18 to 21 years old. Some of the victims were minors. Most died from smoke inhalation rather than burns. Initial reports suggested the tragedy was the result of a series of failures. Police have said they think the pyrotechnics ignited flammable sound insulation on the ceiling. □

CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Jamaica lifts scrap metal exporting ban

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaica has lifted a nearly two-year ban on scrap metal exports as it seeks to boost foreign exchange, but critics worry the country lacks safeguards against plundering of its metal infrastructure. In mid-2011, Jamaica's government shut down the metal trade to stop thieves from destroying power lines, insulation cables and even digging up graves and prying metal from caskets. On Monday, the export trade was reopened. The new rules include a requirement that metal exporters post a \$75,000 bond with a government office. A local group claims that the island's new scrap metal sites breach environmental laws. □

Bahamians vote on gambling proposal

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Voters in the Bahamas are deciding whether to permit some forms of gambling for the islands' citizens. Bahamians are barred from gambling in casinos at the islands' tourist resorts. But gambling operations called "web shops" where islanders bet on numbers in televised U.S. lotteries have become widespread, even though they are illegal. In Monday's referendum, voters were asked whether the web shops should be legalized or if the government should create a national lottery. PM Perry Christie has encouraged citizens to back legalized gambling, saying the underground houses employ thousands of islanders. □

Gitmo's judge snubbed by defendants

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP) — Two Sept. 11 defendants delayed the start of their hearing Monday at Guantanamo when they refused to respond to questions from their judge in the case. Defense lawyers didn't say what prompted the silent protest by self-proclaimed terrorist mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and one of five co-defendants at the military tribunal on the U.S. base in Cuba. Mohammed refused to say whether he approved the hiring of another attorney for him. Fellow defendant Walid bin Attash refused to say why he wanted a military lawyer removed from his team. □

Cayman's turtle farm promises change

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP) — A state-owned turtle breeding farm in the Cayman Islands has released the findings of an independent inspection following concerns by animal rights groups. Investigators found severe skin lesions on "a notable proportion" of turtles and reported concerns about some turtles being underweight and others dying at a young age. Cayman Turtle Farm officials said in a statement that they're working on the report's recommendations, including hiring a full-time veterinarian and improving procedures for treating injuries. Officials also said they have built new hatchling tanks and changed feeding protocols. □

At least 20 dead in Haiti truck accident

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A newspaper is reporting that up to 20 people were killed in Haiti after the truck they were traveling in plunged into a canal. The daily Le Matin said the pilgrims were traveling to the northern part of the country when the accident occurred on a highway near the town of Marchand Dessalines. The report said some of the passengers were crushed by the truck and others drowned. A police spokesman couldn't be reached for comment. Traffic accidents with double-digit death tolls occur regularly in impoverished Haiti, where road safety rules are seldom enforced or respected. □



De Palm Tours Employee saves tourist's life!

ORANJESTAD - During the 2nd week of January, an incident took place where a cruise ship tourist was feeling unwell during a De Palm Tours sightseeing tour. The bus was at Casibari when the driver and guide Eric Brown noticed that one of his passengers was not feeling well. He went to sit down next to the tourist named Henry Mitchell and offered him something to drink when he noticed that he wasn't reacting much. Eric immediately recognized the signals of a possible heart attack and called the ambulance for assistance. Thanks to the rapid reaction of Eric, the tourist got to the hospital on time and survived. As known, the first 90 minutes are the most critical for heart attack victims. The tourist was immediately treated by the personnel of the hospital and was stabilized. After that Amy Spagnola who is the Safety and Compliance Officer of De Palm Tours took care of everything for the family including transportation to the cruise ship where they left their belongings. She also kept in contact on a daily basis with the wife Sharon Mitchell. Mrs. Mitchell has sent a very nice email to thank Eric and Amy for all that they have done for her and her husband. Eric and Amy visited the family at their hotel where they thanked them once again, for sure a beautiful and emotional moment. Management and Shareholders of De Palm Tours wishes good health to Mr. Mitchell and hope they continue visiting our island many more times. Management and Shareholders also want to recognize and thank Eric Brown and Amy Spagnola for their dedication and determination. General



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New contenders emerge at RBC Royal Bank beach tennis event!

EAGLE BEACH - Last weekend BTA and RBC Royal Bank organized the first beach tennis ranking event of 2013 on Eagle beach. Over 200 participants competed over the weekend in front of a wildly excited crowd of fans and enthusiasts!

John Zimmerman was the surprise of the weekend taking titles in singles and mixed doubles and just coming up short in the Open Men with Bryan Soemers, losing the final to Sergio Jie Sam Foek and

Jochem Ros.

An onslaught of other first time winners in different categories was evidence that the sport is developing in a great way. Hard training, great promotion and commitment are paying off!

Next will be the Alno Eurokitchen beach tennis event on February 23-24.

Results :

Youth fun: 1 Shakira-/Jayrick van Asperen; 2 Jesper vd Lee/Quinten Chong

Youth Intermediate: 1 Marc Perez/Sebastiaan Peters; 2

Dylan Ros/Jan Belucci

Youth advanced: 1 Jim de Weerd/Kendrick Paulina; 2 Giovanni Lieuw/Key Singles:

Advanced men: 1 John Zimmerman; 2 Edward Dubero

Intermediate men: 1 Ellery Maduro; 2 Joost Roben

Mix doubles:

Advanced: 1 Betza Ras-mijn /John Zimmerman; 2 Sanne Michielse/Hylke Nijhuis

Intermediate: 1 Bianca Peters/Roel Samson; 2 Marrit Fleur/Ellery Maduro

Fun: 1 Brigitte-/Orlando de Weever; 2 Vanessa-/Remco van der Veldt

Doubles:

Intermediate women: 1 Kristin Martin/Marianne Dirx; 2 Luraine Maduro/Rianne Ridderbos

Intermediate men: 1 Menno Conijn/Ad Stuurman; 2 Curtney Hart/Marco Arnds

Advanced women: 1



Yentl Lieuw/Michelle Wever; 2 Sartini Kousemaker/Marieke vd Niet

Advanced men: 1 Jossy Mansur/Hylke Nijhuis; 2 Bas Jennen/Siardus Witteveen

Open women: 1 Karina Staring/Michelle Boset; 2 Mignon Aal/Barbara Fran-

ke

Open men: 1 Sergio Jie Sam Foek/Jochem Ros; 2 Bryan Soemers/John Zimmerman

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Beauty On The Beach

Sandra Santelmo

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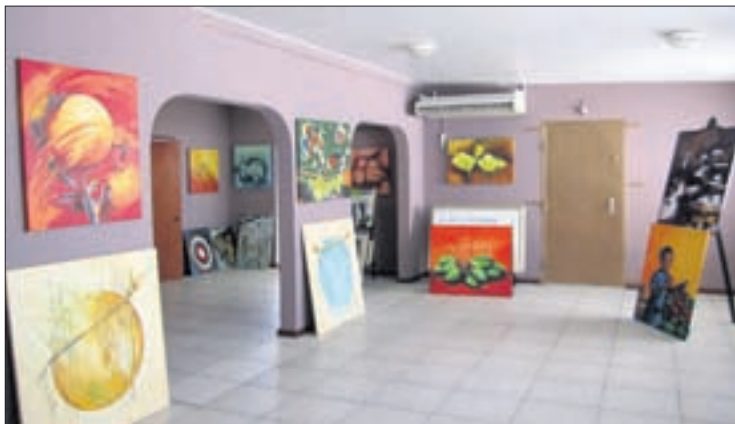
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The Frame Shop moves into its new digs

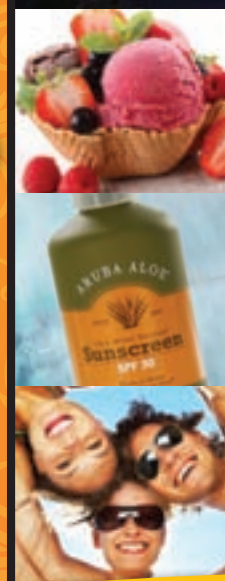
EAGLE – The Frame Shop moved from its old location on Italianstraat to a larger, more spacious gallery on Rudolf Arendsstraat 16. The place is as expected, gorgeous. Local interior décor specialist Cydris Oduber has such great taste, and he set up the gallery beautifully. He is also on hand most times to advise clients on art purchase and framing. Owner Jeanne Gauthier can be trusted to pick only the best works for her art collection. The gallery consists of a number of rooms and displays lots of local artists all framed by resident, in-house master framer Mario Luijckx.

Visitors will be surprised by the treasures they may find with works by Eefje van Twillert, with a distinct lyrical and decorative style, and Ephraim Britten who specializes in Aruban landscapes and themes and treats them with a fantastic realism that is truly reflective of Caribbean art. Also on display the work of Danillo Geerman who adds a touch of surrealism to his landscapes and Elvis Tromp famed owls, pelicans and cactus-scapes, excellent representative of the local flora and fauna. Some photographs and some small sculptures round up the remarkable collection. □



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At the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort:

Forget Family honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority!

EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice families and loyal visitors of Aruba, at the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Steven Forget as Distinguished Visitor, and Bernard and Carolyn Forget as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The Forget

families are loyal members of the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort, hailing all the way from Lunenburg, MA. They love the island very much because of the friendly people of Aruba as well as the friends that they meet every year at the Casa Del Mar! Aruba's fabulous weather, beautiful beaches, fine restaurants and exciting watersports also keep them coming back year after year. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel, representing ATA, together with Marie Kelly, representing the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort. □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to



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Tel: (297) 583 2515
www.driftwoodaruba.com
Opening hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm.
Sunday Closed.



Tampa Bay Lightning center Vincent Lecavalier celebrates after scoring against the Philadelphia Flyers during the first period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

NHL Capsules Jets rally to beat Islanders 5-4 in OT

Associated Press

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Evander Kane scored 1:59 into overtime to give the Winnipeg Jets a come-from-behind victory.

Kane, who also had an assist, tapped the puck in past goalie Evgeni Nabokov after a rebound from a long Olli Jokinen shot.

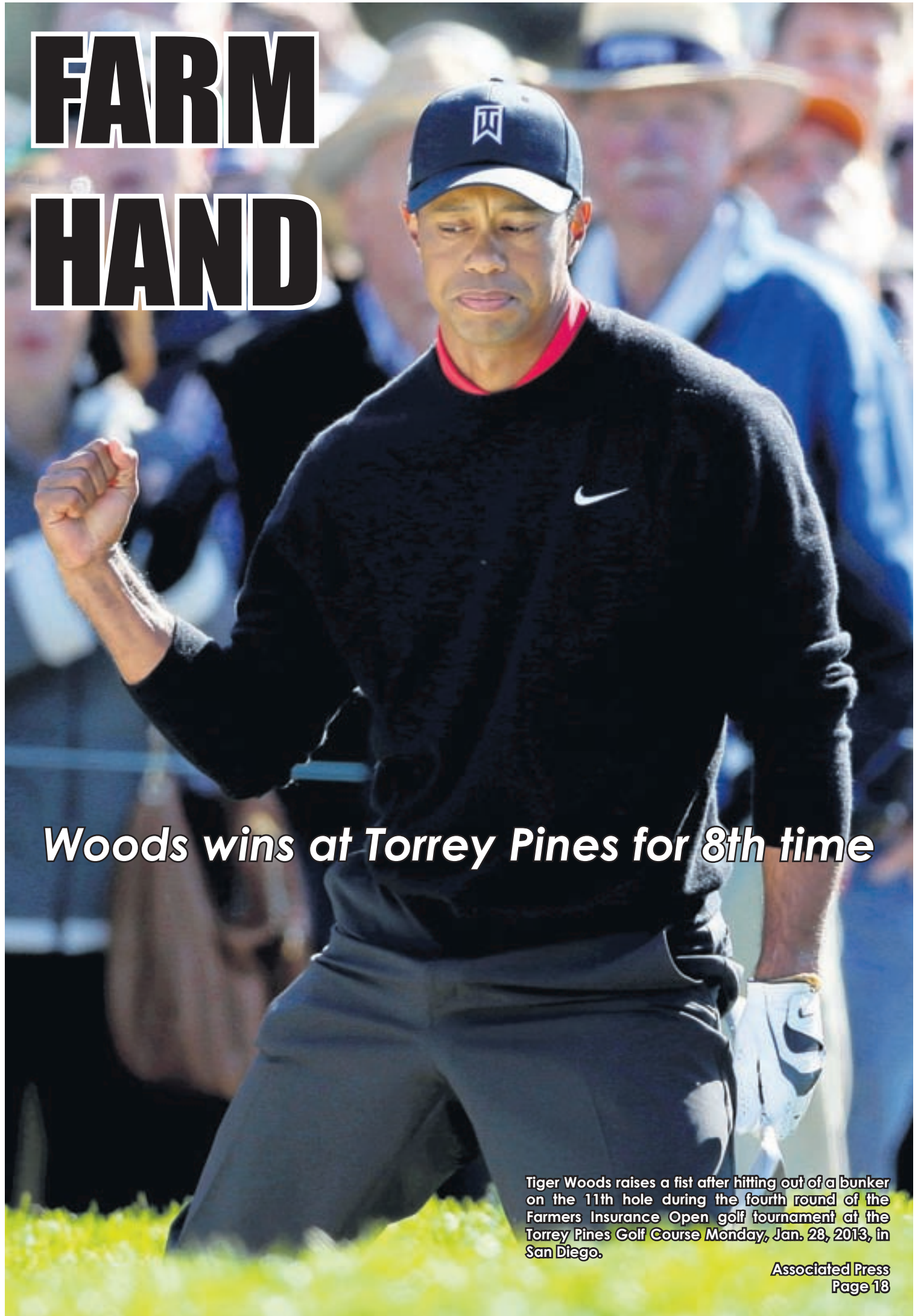
Alexei Ponikarovsky, Bryan Little, Dustin Byfuglien and Alexander Burmistrov also scored for Winnipeg (3-1-1), which was down 4-2 midway through the third period. The Jets have now won three games in a row. John Tavares had a goal and two assists for the Islanders (2-3-0). David Ullstrom, Matt Moulson and Mark Streit also scored for New York. Frans Nielsen had a pair of assists.

SHARKS 4, CANUCKS 1

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Joe Pavelski had two goals, Patrick Marleau scored again — though only once — and the Sharks stayed undefeated.

Continued on Page 19

FARM HAND



Woods wins at Torrey Pines for 8th time

Tiger Woods raises a fist after hitting out of a bunker on the 11th hole during the fourth round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament at the Torrey Pines Golf Course Monday, Jan. 28, 2013, in San Diego.

Associated Press
Page 18

Woods win at Torrey Pines for 8th time

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Tiger Woods is a winner again at Torrey Pines, and the only question Monday was how long it would take him to finish.

Woods stretched his lead to eight shots in the Farmers Insurance Open before losing his focus and his patience during a painfully slow finish by the group ahead.

Despite dropping four shots over the last five holes, he still managed an even-par 72 for a four-shot victory on the course where he has won more than any other in his pro career.

He won the tournament for the seventh time, one behind the record held by Sam Snead, who won the Greater Greensboro Open eight times. It was the eighth time Woods won at Torrey Pines, which includes his playoff win in the 2008 U.S. Open.

This one was never close. Woods built a six-shot lead with 11 holes to play when the final round of the fog-delayed tournament was suspended Sunday by darkness. He returned Monday — a late morning restart because CBS Sports wanted to show it in the afternoon on the East Coast — and looked



Tiger Woods holds up the trophy after winning the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament at the Torrey Pines Golf Course Monday, Jan. 28, 2013, in San Diego. It is Wood's seventh victory in the event.

Associated Press

stronger than ever until the tournament dragged to a conclusion.

Having to wait on every tee and from every fairway — or the rough, in his case — Woods made bogey from the bunker on the 14th, hooked a tee shot on the 15th that went off the trees and into a patch of ice plant and led to double bogey, and then popped up his tee shot on the 17th

on his way to another bogey. All that affected was the score. It kept him from another big margin of victory, though the message was clear about his game long before that.

One week after he missed the cut in Abu Dhabi, he ruled at Torrey Pines.

It was his 75th career win, seven short of the Snead's all-time tour record.

"It got a little ugly toward

the end," Woods said. "I started losing patience a little bit with the slow play. I lost my concentration a little bit."

He rallied with a two-putt par on the 18th hole to win by four shots over defending champion Brandt Snedeker and Josh Teater, who had the best finish of his career.

Like so many of his big wins, the only drama was for second place.

Brad Fritsch, the rookie from Canada, birdied his last two holes for a 75. That put him into a tie for ninth, however, making him eligible for the Phoenix Open next week.

Fritsch had been entered in the Monday qualifier that he had to abandon when the Farmers Insurance Open lost Saturday to a fog delay.

Woods effectively won this tournament in the final two hours Sunday, when he stretched his lead to six shots with only 11 holes to play. Nick Watney made a 10-foot birdie putt on the par-5 ninth when play resumed to get within five shots, only to drop three shots on the next five holes. Everyone else started too far behind, and Woods wasn't about to come back to them.

Even so, the red shirt

seemed to put him on edge. It didn't help that as he settled over his tee shot on the par-5 ninth, he backed off when he heard a man behind the ropes take his picture.

Woods rarely hits the fairway after an encounter with a camera shutter, and this was no different — it went so far right that it landed on the other side of a fence enclosing a corporate hospitality area.

Woods took his free drop, punched out below the trees into the fairway and then showed more irritation when his wedge nicked the flag after one hop and spun down the slope 30 feet away instead of stopping next to the hole.

He didn't show much reaction on perhaps his most memorable shot of the day — with his legs near the edge of a bunker some 75 feet to the left of the 11th green, he blasted out to the top shelf and watched the ball take dead aim until it stopped a foot short.

He failed to save par from a bunker on the 14th, and he hooked his tee shot so badly on the 15th hole that it traveled only about 225 yards before it was gobbed up by the ice plant. He had to take a penalty drop and wound up making double bogey. □

UCI disbands panel looking into Lance Armstrong links

LONDON (AP) — Cycling's governing body disbanded an independent panel put together to review any involvement it had in the Lance Armstrong scandal, saying it will go ahead with a "truth and reconciliation commission" instead.

The UCI said its independent panel did not have the support of the American and global anti-doping bodies, and that a truth and reconciliation process offered the best way "to clear the air" and get to the bottom with the rampant doping culture during the Armstrong era.

The UCI had put together the panel in November to investigate accusations made by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency that it helped cover up suspicious doping tests given by Armstrong and unethically accepted donations from him totaling \$125,000. Those accusations were part of a report published by USADA that led to Armstrong being stripped of his seven Tour de France title and eventually confessing to doping after years of denials.

The independent panel held its first public hearing

on Friday, but it was immediately undermined by the UCI's decision to set up a separate truth and reconciliation process, which will have the backing of WADA and could lead to cyclists being offered amnesty for confessing previous doping violations.

The UCI said in a statement Monday that it was pointless to continue funding the independent panel because USADA and the World Anti-Doping Agency "refused to cooperate" with its inquiry.

"The Independent Commission itself has said that



This is a Monday, Oct. 22, 2012 file photo of Pat McQuaid, President of the Union Cycliste Internationale, UCI, as he informs about the position of the UCI regarding the decision from USADA in the case of Lance Armstrong, during a press conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

Associated Press

any report it produced without these bodies being involved in the process

would be dismissed as not being complete or credible," the UCI said. □

NHL Capsules

Continued from Page 17

Joe Thornton also scored for the Sharks, who improved to 5-0-0. Antti Niemi made 23 saves as coach Todd McLellan earned his 200th career victory.

Marleau scored two goals in each of the first four games of the season, becoming the first NHL player to pull off that trick since 1917.

Alexandre Burrows scored for the Canucks, who had a three-game unbeaten streak end. Cory Schneider also stopped 23 shots.

Ryan Clowe tied a Sharks record with eight penalties, all in the first two periods, and a career-high 35 penalty minutes. The game became feisty even before the drop of the puck as Clowe and Burrows got into it at center ice and it remained that way.

BLACKHAWKS 2, RED WINGS 1

CHICAGO (AP) — Nick Leddy scored 2:45 into

overtime and the Chicago Blackhawks improved to 6-0 — the best start in franchise history — with a 2-1 win over the Detroit Red Wings on Sunday night.

After taking a cross-ice pass from Viktor Stalberg, Leddy fired from the left circle and beat Detroit goalie Jimmy Howard with a shot that slipped just under his glove.

Detroit's Johan Franzen connected early in the third to tie the game at 1 and set up overtime.

Duncan Keith scored a power-play goal in the first period for Chicago, and Corey Crawford finished with 29 saves in his fifth start in six games.

Howard, who has started all five of Detroit's games, made 25 saves.

The Blackhawks started 5-0 in 1971-72 — Hall of Famer Bobby Hull's final season in Chicago — and matched it on Saturday night with a

3-2 win in Columbus.

BLUES 5, WILD 4, OT

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Vladimir Sobotka scored from close range at 2:16 of overtime to give St. Louis a victory. St. Louis is 5-1, its best start since winning seven of its first eight in 1997-98. Coming off a 4-3 victory in Dallas on Saturday night, the Blues improved to 3-0 at home.

Minnesota's Dany Heatley forced the overtime, tying it at 4 when he batted the puck out of the air with 4:08 left in regulation for his fourth goal of the season. The Wild have lost three straight.

Chris Stewart, Barret Jackman, Wade Redden and Patrik Berglund also scored for St. Louis, and Brian Elliott, getting his first home start, made 12 saves.

Zach Parise had two goals and an assist for Minnesota after also scoring twice in the Wild's 5-3 loss in Detroit on Friday night. Mikko Koivu added a goal, and Niklas Backstrom stopped 32 shots.



Minnesota Wild goalie Niklas Backstrom, of Finland, is slow to get up after giving up the game-winning goal to St. Louis Blues' Vladimir Sobotka, of the Czech Republic, during overtime of an NHL hockey game Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013, in St. Louis. The Blues won 5-4.

Associated Press

time since the 1993-94 season.

Marcus Foligno and Tyler Ennis scored, and Ryan Miller made 27 saves for the Sabres, who have lost three straight after opening the season with a pair of wins.

PENGUINS 2, SENATORS 1, SO

OTTAWA (AP) — Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and James Neal scored in the shootout to give the Pittsburgh Penguins a victory against the Ottawa Senators. □



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NBA Roundup

Bright day for L.A. as Clippers, Lakers both win

CLIPPERS 96, TRAIL BLAZERS 83

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Blake Griffin had 23 points and nine assists, helping the Clippers stop a four-game losing streak.

Clippers star Chris Paul missed his fourth straight game and seventh in the past nine because of a bruised right kneecap. Eric Bledsoe had 10 points, five assists and five rebounds in his seventh start at point guard, and Lamar Odom added eight points, 13 rebounds and six assists.

All-Star forward LaMarcus Aldridge led the Trail Blazers with 21 points and 11 rebounds. It was Portland's seventh loss in nine games, and it came in the second part of a home-and-home set with the Clippers.

Portland trailed 74-59 after a driving layup by Bledsoe with 3:15 left in the third quarter. Griffin didn't play after going to the bench with 10 seconds left in the third and the Clippers leading 78-62.

LAKERS 105, THUNDER 96

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant had 21 points, 14 assists and nine rebounds, Steve Nash added seven of his 17 points in the final 5½ minutes, and the Lakers held off the NBA-leading Thunder.

Pau Gasol scored 16 points in a reserve role as the Lakers picked up the most



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) throws a pass and hits Oklahoma City Thunder forward Nick Collison (4) in the mouth during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013. The Lakers won 105-96.

impressive victory of their thoroughly unimpressive season, coolly maintaining a small lead down the stretch of their second straight win after a four-game skid.

Los Angeles had lost nine of its last 11 against the powerful Thunder, including four of five in the clubs' second-round playoff series last spring.

Kevin Durant scored 35 points and Russell Westbrook had 17 points, 13 assists and nine rebounds for the road-weary Thunder, who finished their longest trip of the season at 3-3.

KNICKS 106, HAWKS 104

NEW YORK (AP) — Carmelo

Anthony tied a franchise record with nine 3-pointers, then converted a go-ahead, three-point play with 12.5 seconds left to cap a 42-point night and lead the Knicks to the victory.

The Hawks shot a season-high 60 percent from the field but had their three-game winning streak snapped when Josh Smith, burned on Anthony's basket, missed a 3-pointer on Atlanta's final possession.

Amare Stoudemire and J.R. Smith each had 18 points for the Knicks, who were 16 of 27 (59 percent) from 3-point range. Raymond Felton had 12 points

Associated Press and 10 assists in his second game back after a 10-game absence with a broken right pinky.

Jeff Teague scored 27 points for the Hawks. Smith added 20 and Al Horford had 16.

MAVERICKS 110, SUNS 95

DALLAS (AP) — Shawn Marion scored 18 points for Dallas in his 1,000th game, and Dirk Nowitzki also had 18 while passing Allen Iverson on the career scoring list.

It was the 10th straight home win for the Mavericks against the Suns, who haven't won in Dallas since March 14, 2007.

Nowitzki passed Iverson

for 18th on the NBA's scoring list with a third-quarter jumper that stopped a Phoenix run, and his 3-pointer early in the fourth started a surge that put Dallas in control for good. Phoenix rallied from a first-half deficit and made it interesting for a second straight night in Texas after losing at Western Conference-leading San Antonio. Goran Dragic led four players in double figures with 18 points.

HORNETS 91, GRIZZLIES 83

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Ryan Anderson scored 22 points for New Orleans, connecting on seven 3-pointers.

Anderson was 7 of 13 from the field, all of his attempts coming from outside the arc. Fellow reserve Jason Smith was 5 of 7 from the field for 16 points, and Anthony Davis was the only New Orleans starter to finish in double figures with 10 points.

The Hornets had dropped consecutive games.

Zach Randolph led Memphis with 20 points and 13 rebounds for his league-leading 28th double-double. Marc Gasol had 14 points and 11 boards, and Jerryd Bayless also scored 14. Rudy Gay had 10 points, but was 3 for 17 from the field, including a 1-for-7 performance from long range. □

Deng asks Cameron to restore basketball funding

LONDON (AP) — Chicago Bulls forward Luol Deng has pleaded with British Prime Minister David Cameron to pump government cash into the country's basketball program to ensure the legacy from the London Olympics isn't "completely demolished."

Britain's basketball squads were told last month they will receive no funding ahead of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016.

In a letter to Camer-

on, Deng says "I ... have put too much in and care too greatly to let this happen."

Deng asks

"how are we supposed to motivate these kids to carry along their (basketball) journey when there's now nothing at the end? No Team GB, no Olympic dream, no goal."

Britain qualified for the London Games through its host-nation place. □



Toronto Raptors forward Alan Anderson (6) battles for a loose ball against Chicago Bulls forward Luol Deng (9) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013, in Toronto. The Bulls won 107-105 in overtime.

Associated Press

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NFC blows out AFC 62-35 in Pro Bowl in Hawaii

OSKAR GARCIA
Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — The NFC beat the AFC in another offensive blowout of a Pro-Bowl on Sunday that could well be the last of the annual NFL all-star games. Half-hearted defense and a growing reluctance of some players to be involved had created debate about whether to keep the Pro Bowls going. Sunday's 62-35 result delivered evidence for both sides of the argument. The NFC was unstoppable on offense, while the AFC had five turnovers and scored most of its points well after the game was no longer competitive. Minnesota tight end Kyle Rudolph was voted the game's MVP with five catches for 122 yards and a touchdown.

Defensive end J.J. Watt, who had 20 1/2 sacks for Houston, lined up as a wide receiver on the AFC's third play from scrimmage, but missed a pass from Denver quarterback Peyton Manning. He was targeted one more time, but didn't make a catch. Whether the Pro Bowl will return or not is a question league officials will ponder the next few months, with a decision expected by April, when next season's fixtures are released. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has said the Pro Bowl won't be played again if play didn't improve this year. Last year, fans in Hawaii booed as linemen were clearly not trying. If players were coasting this time around, it was less obvious. The AFC just played poorly. And fans

didn't boo much — the stands were relatively empty even though the game sold enough tickets to lift a local television blackout.

Jeff Saturday, the Green Bay center retiring at the end of this season, played for both teams though he came representing the NFC. He lined up on one play for the AFC to snap the ball one last time to Manning, his longtime former Colts teammate. Saturday played 13 seasons in Indianapolis, all with Manning — except 2011, when Manning was out with a neck injury. Saturday then played later in the game for the NFC, snapping to Peyton's brother, Giants quarterback Eli Manning. Even as the NFC piled up touchdowns, the game struggled for memorable moments.

In the second quarter, referee Ed Hochuli drew cheers when announcing a pass interference penalty on Denver cornerback Champ Bailey in the second quarter — the first flag of the game.

"Yes, there are penalties in



Houston Texans defensive end J.J. Watt (99) of the AFC pulls down New York Giants defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul (90) of the NFC after Pierre-Paul made an interception during the fourth quarter of the NFL Pro Bowl football game in Honolulu, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013. The NFC beat the AFC 62-35.

Associated Press

Zakopalova beats Medina Garrigues at Open GDF Suez

PARIS (AP) — Eighth-seeded Klara Zakopalova of the Czech Republic beat Anabel Medina Garrigues 2-6, 7-5, 6-0 Monday in the first round of the Open GDF Suez.

Zakopalova needed 2 hours, 17 minutes to get the better of the Spaniard, who had won seven of their previous 10 matches. Medina Garrigues did not face a break point in the first set and broke Zakopalova twice. But Zakopalova broke her twice in the second and then cruised in the third. She next faces either Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain or a qualifier in the second round. Also, Christina McHale of the United States broke

Frenchwoman Pauline Parmentier's serve four times in a 6-4, 6-1 win to set up a second-round match against No. 3 Marion Bartoli of France. □

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JANUARY 2013
NCAA, BASKETBALL READY FOR
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Personal Health:**Rethinking the need for annual physical checkups****JANE E. BRODY**

© 2013 New York Times

"Go Beyond Your Father's Annual Physical. Live Longer, Feel Better"

This sales pitch for the Princeton Longevity Center's "comprehensive exam" promises, for \$5,300, to take "your health beyond the annual physical." But it is far from certain whether this all-day checkup, and others less inclusive, make a meaningful difference to health or merely provide reassurance to the worried well. Among physicians, researchers and insurers, there is an ongoing debate as to whether regular checkups really reduce the chances of becoming seriously ill or dying of an illness that would have been treatable had it been detected sooner.

No one questions the importance of regular exams for well babies, children and pregnant women, and the protective value of specific exams, like a Pap smear for sexually active women and a colonoscopy for people older than 50. But arguments against the annual physical for all adults have been fueled by a growing number of studies that failed to find a medical benefit.

Some experts note that when something seemingly abnormal is picked up during a routine exam, the result is psychological distress for the patient, further testing that may do more harm than good,

and increased medical expenses.

"Part of the problem of looking for abnormalities in perfectly well people is that rather a lot of us have them," Dr. Margaret McCartney, a Scottish physician, wrote in The Daily Mail, a British newspaper. "Most of them won't do us any harm."

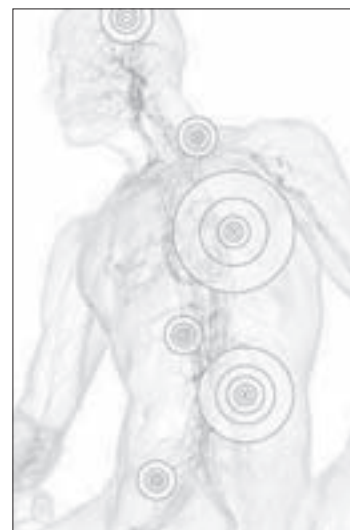
She cited the medical saga of Brian Mulroney, former prime minister of Canada. A CT scan performed as part of a checkup in 2005 revealed two small lumps in Mulroney's lungs. Following surgery, he developed an inflamed pancreas, which landed him in intensive care. He spent six weeks in the hospital, then was readmitted a month later for removal of a cyst on his pancreas caused by the inflammation.

The lumps on his lungs, by the way, were benign. But what if, you may ask, Mulroney's lumps had been cancer? Might not the discovery during a routine exam have saved his life? Logic notwithstanding, the question of benefits versus risks from routine exams can be answered only by well-designed scientific research. Defining the value of a routine checkup – determining who should get one and how often – is especially important now, because next year the Affordable Care Act will add some 30 million people to the roster of the medically insured, many of whom will

be eligible for government-mandated preventive care through an annual exam.

Dr. Ateev Mehrotra of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, who directed a study of annual physicals in 2007, reported that an estimated 44.4 million U.S. adults undergo preventive exams each year. He concluded that if every adult were to receive such an exam, the health care system would be saddled with 145 million more visits every year, consuming 41 percent of all the time that primary care doctors spend with patients. There is already a shortage of such doctors and not nearly enough other health professionals – physician assistants and nurse practitioners – to meet future needs. If you think the wait to see your doctor is too long now, you may want to stock up on some epic novels to keep you occupied in the waiting room in the future.

Few would challenge the axiom that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Lacking incontrovertible evidence for the annual physical, this logic has long been used to justify it: If a thorough exam and conversation about your well-being alerts your doctor to a health problem that is best addressed sooner rather than later, isn't that better than waiting until the problem becomes too trouble-



Studies suggest that for seemingly healthy people, annual exams provide no benefit and can actually do harm by raising false flags or prompting unnecessary follow-ups.
(Bryan Christie/The New York Times)

some to ignore?

What if you have a potentially fatal ailment, like heart disease or cancer, that may otherwise be undetected until it is well advanced or incurable?

And wouldn't it help to uncover risk factors like elevated blood sugar or high cholesterol that could prevent an incipient ailment if they are reversed before causing irreparable damage? Even if there is no direct medical benefit, many doctors say that having their patients visit once a year helps to maintain a meaningful relationship and alert doctors to changes in patients' lives that could affect health. It is also an opportunity to give patients needed immunizations and to remind

them to get their eyes, teeth and skin checked.

But the long-sacrosanct recommendation that everyone should have an annual physical was challenged yet again recently by researchers at the Nordic Cochrane Center in Copenhagen.

In summarizing their results, the team said, "We did not find an effect on total or cause-specific mortality from general health checks in adult populations unselected for risk factors or disease. For the causes of death most likely to be influenced by health checks, cardiovascular mortality and cancer mortality, there were no reductions either." What, then, should people do to monitor their health?

Whenever you see your doctor, for any reason, make sure your blood pressure is checked. If a year or more has elapsed since your last blood test, get a new one. Keep immunizations up to date, and get the screening tests specifically recommended based on your age, gender and known risk factors, including your family and personal medical history.

And if you develop a symptom, like unexplained pain, shortness of breath, digestive problems, a lump, a skin lesion that doesn't heal, or unusual fatigue or depression, consult your doctor without delay. Seek further help if the initial diagnosis and treatment fails to bring relief. □

Ground beef recall linked to 16 sick in 5 states**MIKE STOBBE****Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal health officials say at least 16 people in five states have been sickened by salmonella food poisoning linked to ground beef.

No one has died, but half were hospitalized. Most of the illnesses have been in Michigan, but a few cases were scattered in Arizona, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. Seven people ate a raw ground beef dish called



Salmonella poisoning from consuming raw beef has been linked to multiple illnesses in 5 states.
(Handout Photo)

kibbeh last month at a suburban Detroit restaurant that wasn't identified. Health officials say consumers should not eat uncooked meat.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the cases have been linked to last week's recall of more than 1,000 pounds of ground beef from two Michigan businesses, Troy-based Gab Halal Foods and Sterling Heights-based Jouni Meats. □



Crucial, long-overdue BlackBerry makeover arrives

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — The maker of the BlackBerry smartphone is promising a speedy browser, a superb typing experience and the ability to keep work and personal identities separate on the same phone, the fruit of a crucial, long-overdue makeover for the Canadian company.

Thorsten Heins, chief executive of Research In Motion Ltd., will reveal the first phone with the new BlackBerry 10 system in New York on Wednesday. It will come with a marketing campaign that includes a Super Bowl ad. Repeated delays have left the once-pioneering BlackBerry an afterthought in the shadow of Apple's trend-setting iPhone and Google's Android-driven devices.

Now, there's some optimism. Previews of the software have gotten favorable reviews on blogs. Financial analysts are starting to see some slight room for a comeback. RIM's stock has nearly tripled to about \$16.30 from a nine-year low in September, though it's still nearly 90 percent below its 2008 peak of \$147.

Most analysts consider a BlackBerry 10 success to be crucial for the company's long-term viability.

"The old models are becoming obsolete quickly," BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis said. "There is still a big user base but it's going to rotate off. The question is: Where do they rotate to?"

The BlackBerry, pioneered in 1999, has been the dominant smartphone for on-the-go business people. Corporate information-technology managers like the phones because they're relatively secure and easy to manage.

The BlackBerry has also crossed over to consumers. President Barack Obama couldn't bear to part with it when he took office. Oprah Winfrey declared it one of her "favorite things." People got so addicted that the device was nicknamed "the CrackBerry." But when the iPhone came



In this Sept. 9, 2008, file photo, the logo on a BlackBerry smartphone is shown in Bochum, Germany. The maker of the BlackBerry smartphone is promising a speedy browser, a superb typing experience and the ability to keep work and personal identities separate on the same phone, the fruit of a crucial, long-overdue makeover for the Canadian company.

out in 2007, it showed that phones can do much more than email and phone calls. They can play games, music and movies. Android came along to offer even more choices. Though IT managers still love BlackBerrys, employees were bringing their own devices to the workplace — a trend Heins acknowledged RIM was slow to adapt to. Suddenly, the BlackBerry looked ancient. Even as BlackBerry sales continued to grow in many parts of the world, many BlackBerry users in North America switched to iPhones and Android devices. BlackBerry's worldwide subscriber based

peaked at 80 million in the quarter that ended Sept. 1, before dropping to 79 million in the most-recent quarter. In the U.S., according to research firm IDC, shipments of BlackBerry phones plummeted from 46 percent of the market in 2008 to 2 percent in 2012. RIM promised a new system to catch up, using technology it got through its 2010 purchase of QNX Software Systems. RIM initially said BlackBerry 10 would come by early 2012, but then the company changed that to late 2012. A few months later, that date was pushed further, to early 2013, missing the lucrative holiday season. The holdup helped

wipe out more than \$70 billion in shareholder wealth and 5,000 jobs. Although executives have been providing a glimpse at some of BlackBerry 10's new features for months, Heins will finally showcase a complete system at Wednesday's event. Devices will go

on sale soon after that. RIM redesigned the system to embrace the multimedia, apps and touch-screen experience prevalent today. "Historically there have been areas that have not been our strongest points," Rick Costanzo, RIM's executive vice president of global sales, said in an interview. "Not only have we caught up, but we may even be better than some of the competition now." Costanzo said "no one else can touch" what RIM's new system offers. The new operating system promises better multitasking than either the iPhone or Android. Simply swipe a finger across the phone's display screen to switch to another program.

All emails and notifications from such applications as Twitter and Facebook go to the BlackBerry Hub, a nerve center accessible with a finger swipe even if you have another application open.

One can peek into it and open an email, or return to the previous application without opening the email. □

Associated Press

Apple updates iPhone and iPad software

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple has released a software update for iPhones and iPads that speeds up data downloads on some major overseas telecom networks and a handful of small U.S. carriers.

Apple says iOS version 6.1 adds the ability to access the "LTE" networks of 36 additional iPhone carriers. Those include Alaska Communications, Bluegrass Cellular of Kentucky and C Spire of Mississippi. Interna-

tionally, they include major carriers in Italy, Denmark, Finland, Croatia, Portugal, Saudi Arabia and South Africa. The update also includes the ability buy U.S. movie tickets through the "Siri" voice-controlled assistant feature. Also, subscribers to "iTunes Match" will now be able to download individual songs from their online lockers to their phones. The update is compatible with the iPod Touch as well. □

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Caterpillar sees uncertain 2013 after slow 4Q

JOSHUA FREED

AP Business Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Caterpillar said on Monday that its 2013 profit could shrink if the world's economy doesn't pick up in the second half of the year, as mining companies and builders remain cautious about buying new gear. The cloudy outlook for the year came as Caterpillar reported a fourth-quarter profit less than half as big as a year ago because of a deal in China that went bad and slower growth around most of the world. Caterpillar Inc. is the largest maker of construction and mining equipment, so its performance rises and falls with the world's economy. It tries to predict where the economy is headed so it knows how many excavators, bulldozers, and mining trucks to build.

If recent economic improvements continue, this could be a record year for Caterpillar, its executives said. But if this year is a replay of the last two,

where growth and confidence declined in the second half, "2013 could be a tough year," said Doug Oberhelman, chairman and CEO.



A piece of Caterpillar heavy equipment is used at a US construction site. (Handout Photo)

Caterpillar started 2012 expecting the U.S. economy to grow at least 3 percent but economists estimate annual growth was a little more than 2 percent. In April, the company was still forecasting 8.5 percent growth in China, but the world's second-largest economy expanded by 7.8

percent last year, its weakest annual performance since the 1990s.

Caterpillar dialed back production in the second half of 2012, which hurt

fourth-quarter revenue and profits. Caterpillar and its dealers have both been trying to sell off inventory. Reduced production will continue at least through the first quarter, the company said.

For this year, Caterpillar expects revenue of \$60 billion to \$68 billion, with a profit

of \$7 to \$9 per share. Analysts had been expecting a profit of \$8.54 per share on revenue of \$64.58 billion. Caterpillar said there's a wide range in its outlook because of the high level of uncertainty in the world. It expects relatively weak growth in the U.S. economy. Growth in China will improve, but not back to the levels seen in 2010 or 2011, Caterpillar said. It expects Europe to continue to struggle. It said first quarter revenue and profits will be "significantly lower" than the same period last year. In the quarter ended Dec. 31, Caterpillar earned \$697 million, or \$1.04 per share, down from a profit of \$1.55 billion, or \$2.32 per share a year earlier.

The most recent quarter included a non-cash charge of 87 cents per share to write down the purchase of Zhengzhou Siwei.

Not counting the write-down and a \$300 million tax benefit, Caterpillar would have earned \$1.46 per share. □



Tsujihara set as new CEO of Warner Bros

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kevin Tsujihara was named the next chief executive of the Warner Bros. studio, one of the largest producers of TV shows and movies in Hollywood. He'll take over from Barry Meyer on March 1. The Tsujihara, 48, has been president of the studio's home entertainment division since 2005.

Jeff Bewkes, the chief executive of Warner Bros. parent Time Warner Inc., said in a statement Monday that Tsujihara was the right leader for the studio, combining strategic thinking with financial discipline. "Kevin is one of the most effective and respected executives within Time Warner," Bewkes said.

Tsujihara said in a statement it was an honor to lead the studio.

"We're at a pivotal moment in the histories of Hollywood and entertainment: technology is changing the canvas we use to create theatrical releases," he said.

Meyer will continue on as chairman of the studio through 2013.

The appointment ends a three-way race to succeed Meyer, 69, who has been chairman and CEO of the studio since 1999.

After Alan Horn left as president of Warner Bros. in April 2011, an office of the president was shared between Tsujihara, Warner Bros. Pictures president Jeff Robinov, and Warner Bros. Television president Bruce Rosenblum. It was assumed one of the three would succeed Meyer.

Rosenblum said in a statement he was disappointed: "Who wouldn't be? Warner Bros. is a unique and special place and I know it will be in good hands with Kevin at the helm." □

GM plans \$600M upgrade at Kansas City plant

MARIA SUDEKUM

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kansas (AP)

— General Motors announced plans Monday to pour \$600 million into a new paint shop and other upgrades at its assembly plant in Kansas City, an investment that likely ensures the facility's long-term viability. Construction on the 450,000-square-foot (41,800-sq. meter) paint shop, a new stamping press and efficiency enhancements at the Fairfax Assembly Plant will begin this year and should take about two years to complete, the automaker said in a statement.

"This major investment is a vote of confidence in the employees and leadership of this plant and will allow them to continue producing beautiful, world-class vehicles ... with the same quality workmanship that has defined the Fairfax complex for nearly 70 years," GM Chairman and CEO Dan Akerson said.

GM, one of the Kansas' largest employers, announced earlier this month that it would invest about \$1.5 billion in its North American facilities in 2013. Production at the Fairfax plant, where the company makes the Buick LaCrosse



A Chevrolet Suburban is driven through the uneven terrain course at the General Motors Milford Proving Grounds in Milford, Mich. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

and Chevrolet Malibu, is not expected to be affected by the construction, the company said. GM said the upgrade is designed to cut the amount of energy

required to build the cars and reduce water consumption and chemical waste at the 572-acre site. GM employs nearly 3,900 workers at the plant, which has produced more than 12 million vehicles since 1945 and currently builds

one vehicle every 58 seconds.

GM sold 9.29 million cars and trucks worldwide in 2012, making it second only behind Japan's Toyo-

ta in global sales.

An investment this large means that the Fairfax plant likely has a bright future with GM and could get additional models to build beyond its current cars, the Chevrolet Malibu and Buick LaCrosse. At a minimum, it is likely to get future generations of those models. Both the LaCrosse and Malibu have been decent sellers for GM in the past, but sales have slowed of late. U.S. sales of the LaCrosse, a big midsize luxury sedan, fell 2.4 percent last year to just over 57,000, according to Autodata Corp. Malibu sales rose 3 percent to almost 211,000, but that's a little more than half the sales of the Toyota Camry, the midsize leader and the top-selling car in the U.S. GM launched a new version of the Malibu in 2012, but it took until late in the year for the full selection of engines to arrive in showrooms. The company has said it will get a quick makeover this year. □

US stocks close mixed on uneven economic signals

DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

U.S. stocks meandered between small gains and losses Monday, cooling off after a rally that had pushed the Standard & Poor's 500 index above 1,500 for the first time since December 2007. Encouraging news about manufacturing provided an early boost, but stocks fell later after a report on the pace of home sales fell short of expectations.

The government said before trading began that orders for long-lasting goods rose in December by 4.6 percent, helped by a 10 percent gain in orders for new aircraft. The report was a sign of strength for the manufacturing sector, a crucial driver of economic growth.

Heavy equipment maker Caterpillar said separately that its fourth-quarter net income exceeded analysts' expectations, after adjusting for the cost of a soured deal to buy a Chinese maker of roofing supports for mines. Caterpillar said it took a big charge in the quarter because the Chinese company had misrepresented its finances.

Caterpillar Inc. said it expects growth in China to improve without regaining the levels seen in 2010 or 2011. The stock was the biggest gainer in the Dow Jones industrial average, closing up \$1.87, or 2 percent, at \$97.45.

The Dow Jones transportation index, a proxy for future economic activity, edged higher, notching its tenth straight increase and its twelfth gain in the past 13 trading days.

A half-hour after trading began, the National Association of Realtors said that its index of pending home sales fell in December, suggesting that sales of previously occupied homes may slow in the coming months. The report, which was weaker than many economists had expected, helped push stocks lower for much of the morning. They were roughly flat by midday, and spent the afternoon swapping small bumps and dips.

The Dow closed down 14.05 points, or 0.1 percent,

at 13,881.93. The S&P 500 fell 2.78, or 0.2 percent, to 1,500.18. The Nasdaq composite index added 4.59, or 0.2 percent, to 3,154.



Trader Michael Urkonis, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

The Dow and the S&P 500 are rapidly approaching their all-time closing highs,

reached on Oct. 9, 2007. The Dow is about 282 points below its high of 14,164.53; the S&P 500 is 65 points shy of its record of 1,565.

Several big tech companies reported their results after the market closed

and saw big price swings in after-hours trading:

— Web portal Yahoo Inc. rose 81 cents, or 4 percent, to \$21.12 after saying its fourth-quarter earnings topped analyst estimates as an upturn in its international investments helped end a three-year revenue slump.

— Hard disk maker Seagate Technology PLC said it beat analysts' estimates in its results for the fiscal second quarter ended Dec. 28. It rose 69 cents, or 1.8 percent, to \$38.10 after hours.

— Cloud computing provider VMware Inc. said its net income edged higher, but the company announced guidance that was far weaker than analysts had expected. □

Report:

US approves high pay at bailed-out firms

MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Treasury Department disregarded its own guidelines by allowing large pay increases for executives at three firms bailed out during the financial crisis, a report released Monday says.

The Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program said Treasury approved all 18 requests it received for executive raises at American International Group

Inc., General Motors Corp. and Ally Financial Inc. Of those requests, 14 were for \$100,000 or more. One raise, for the CEO of a division at AIG, was for \$1 million.

The three firms together received nearly \$250 billion from the bailout fund. Only AIG has fully repaid its \$182 billion bailout.

The report says Treasury bypassed rules under the 2008 bailout that limited pay. Treasury approved raises that exceeded pay limits and in some cases

failed to link compensation to performance, it notes.

Christy Romero, the special inspector general for TARP, said the guidelines say compensation should not exceed the 50th percentile of pay for executives in similar positions at other financially distressed companies.

But pay surpassed that level for 63 percent of the executives whose pay was approved, according to the report.

The report also said Treasury officials had been

warned a year ago that the department needed to reform its procedures to ensure that the pay guidelines are followed.

Patricia Geoghegan, the Treasury official who approved the raises, disputed the findings of the report.

In a letter to Romero, Geoghegan said it's unfair to call the pay excessive. She said Treasury must strike a balance between limiting compensation and approving pay packages that are consistent with executives in similar jobs. □

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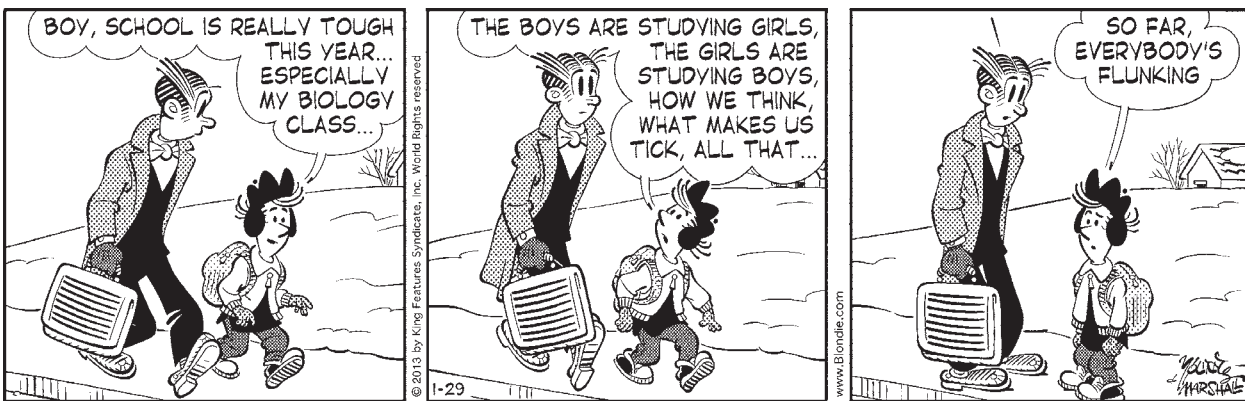
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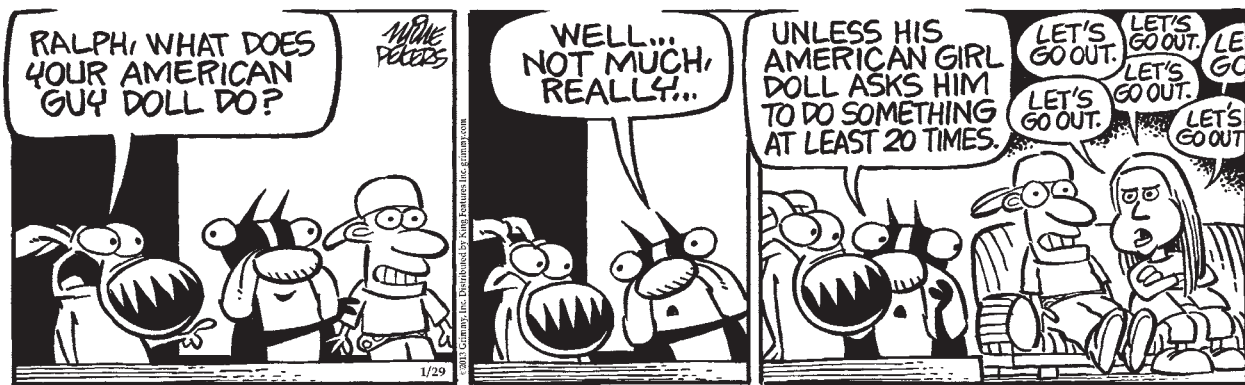
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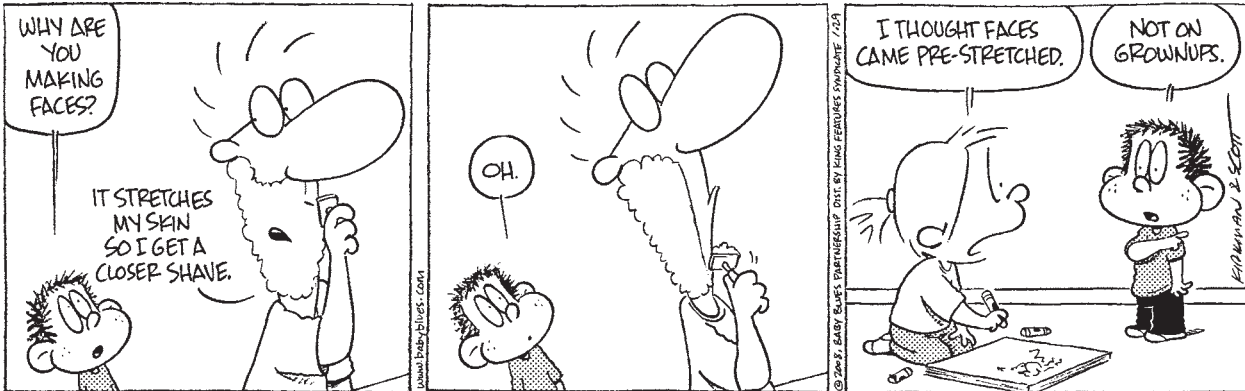
Blondie



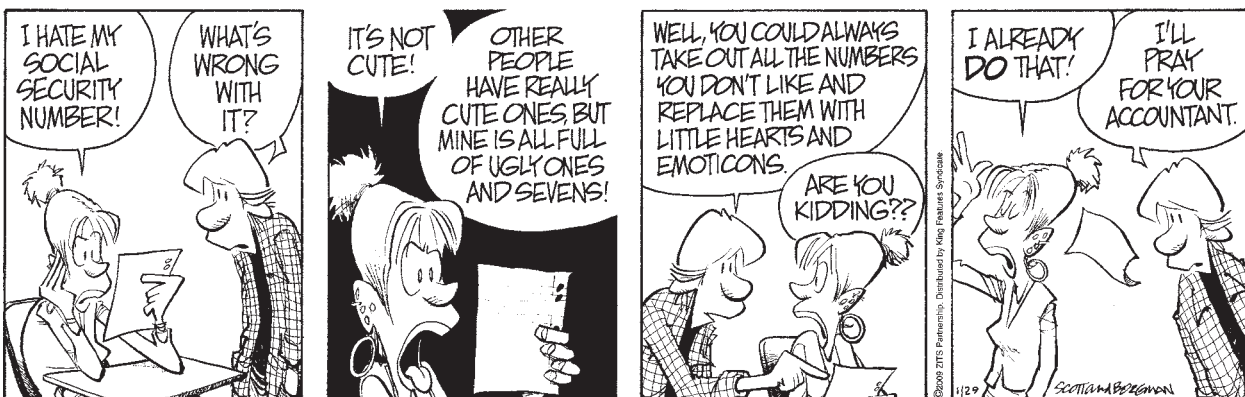
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				8	9			
		6			7	4		
	7	5		6		3	9	
	3							1
4		8				9		2
9							3	
	6	1		4		2	5	
		3	5			8		
				1	6			

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	1	6	9	2	8	3	5	4
5	9	3	7	4	6	8	2	1
8	2	4	3	1	5	6	7	9
1	6	2	5	7	9	4	3	8
4	7	9	8	3	2	1	6	5
3	5	8	4	6	1	7	9	2
9	8	7	6	5	4	2	1	3
6	4	1	2	9	3	5	8	7
2	3	5	1	8	7	9	4	6

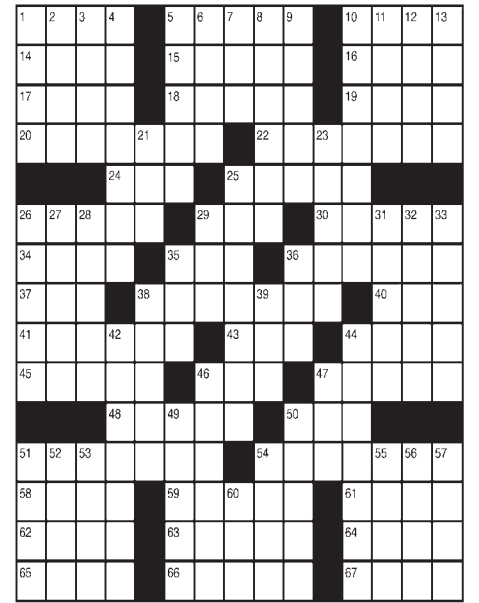
ACROSS

- 1 Gap; opening
- 5 Pile up
- 10 Facts & figures
- 14 High point; tip
- 15 Judge's mallet
- 16 Water pitcher
- 17 Part of a three-piece suit
- 18 "Carmen" or "Rigoletto"
- 19 Penny
- 20 Junior naval officers
- 22 Lends a hand
- 24 Anti's vote
- 25 Plant pest
- 26 Eyeglasses, for short
- 29 "Been Working on the Railroad"
- 30 Instruct
- 34 Uplifting tune
- 35 Fawn's mother
- 36 Propel a canoe
- 37 Heavyweight Muhammad
- 38 Stroll
- 40 "Nowhere"; Beatles song
- 41 Study of plants
- 43 Musician's stint
- 44 CD; compact

- 45 Allen or Jobs
- 46 1/60 of a min.
- 47 Flexible; agile
- 48 Rowed
- 50 Split soup
- 51 Raincoat
- 54 Protective glasses
- 58 Cola
- 59 Barking marine mammals
- 61 Seldom seen
- 62 In the sack
- 63 Follow
- 64 Related
- 65 Hubbub
- 66 49ers & 76ers
- 67 Repair

DOWN

- 1 a blast; enjoy oneself
- 2 Frank; candid



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 1/29/13

Monday's Puzzle Solved

DALES	LIAR	POST
EXILE	ABLE	ANEW
ALDER	DIET	MINE
RESCINDS	OPPOSE	
TOES	PREENED	
SETSUP	ROTOR	
PRO	SABER	NECKS
AGED	LINES	DANA
RODEO	LADLE	SEN
	SWELL	AMUSED
REVELRY	ONES	
AVERSE	ALTRUISM	
TART	CARD	AROMA
EDGE	TREE	LETUP
DEER	SCAR	DRAGS

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- 38 Move furtively
- 39 -tac-toe
- 42 Guacamole
- 44 Explanatory drawing
- 46 Calm
- 47 Lower limb
- 49 Adjust an alarm
- 50 Sits for an artist
- 51 "Beat it!"
- 52 Gray wolf
- 53 Frosted
- 54 Solemn-faced
- 55 Tahoe or Huron
- 56 "go brag!"
- 57 Put in the mail
- 60 Busy bee

Murdoch apologizes over Times cartoon

RAPHAEL SATTER
Associated Press
LONDON (AP) — Media baron Rupert Murdoch has apologized for a Sunday Times cartoon depicting Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu building a wall using blood-red mortar, an image Jewish leaders said was reminiscent of anti-Semitic propaganda. The political cartoon, which was published on Holocaust Memorial Day, shows Netanyahu wielding a long, sharp trowel and depicts agonized Palestinians bricked into the wall's structure. It was meant as a comment on recent elections in which Netanyahu's ticket narrowly won the most seats in the Israeli parliament. "Will cementing the peace continue?" the caption read, a reference both to the stalled peace process and Israel's separation barrier, a complex of fences and concrete walls which Israel portrays as a defense against suicide bombers but which Palestinians say is a land grab under the guise of security. Murdoch wrote on Twitter that the cartoonist, Gerald Scarfe — a veteran artist who frequently depicts blood in his work — did not reflect the paper's editorial line. □

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198395A

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after jan. 19 call. 920-7882750

198395

FOR SALE
Divi Golf Villas
9th hole/ocean view
1 bed- 2 bath
wks 1,2,3 + lock out wk1
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harvey lady@aol.com

198515

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Paradise Beach Villas
1 Bedroom, garden view
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1 bedroom ocean/ pool view
week 3 \$6500
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Room 109 Jan 26- Feb.1
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wk 2 \$17.000
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(USA) 203-421-3531
E-mail: roberta.ambrose@att.net

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198524

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ORANJESTAD
29 January
Dr. Samuels

Pharmacy on duty
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Botica Kibrahacha Tel: 582-2007
SAN NICOLAAS:
Botica Aloe Tel: 584-4606

Police

Police	581-1100
Oranjestad	582-4000
Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

Emergency Numbers

Emergency	911
Police	100
Fire Dept.	115
Fire Dept. II	582-1108
Police Tipline	11141
Hospital	527-4000

Oranjestad

Ambulance	582-1234
Police	582-4000

San Nicolas

Ambulance	584-5050
Police Station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

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Information	118
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Taxi D.T.S.	587-2300
Service Aruba	583-3232

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Spirit Airlines	Tel: 582-7117
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AP Interview: CERN chief firmer on 'God particle'

JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)

— The world should know with certainty by the middle of this year whether a subatomic particle discovered by scientists is a long-sought Higgs boson, the head of the world's largest atom smasher said Saturday.

Rolf Heuer, director of the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN, said he is confident that "towards the middle of the year, we will be there." By then, he said reams of data from the \$10 billion Large Hadron Collider on the Swiss-French border near Geneva should have been assessed.

The timing could also help Scottish physicist Peter Higgs win a Noble Prize, Heuer said in an interview with The Associated Press in the Swiss resort of Davos. CERN's atom smasher helped scientists declare in July their discovery of a new subatomic particle



Director General of CERN, Rolf-Direr Heuer, gestures as he speaks during an interview with The Associated Press at the World Economic Forum, WEF, in Davos, Switzerland, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013.

Associated Press

that Heuer calls "very, very like" a Higgs boson, that promises a new realm of understanding the universe.

The machine, which has been creating high-energy collisions of protons to investigate dark matter, antimatter and the creation

of the universe, is being put to rest early this year. The data from it, however, takes longer to analyze.

"Suppose the Higgs boson is a special snowflake. So you have to identify the snowflake, in a big snowstorm, in front of a background of snowfields," Heuer said by way of analogy. "That is very difficult. You need a tremendous amount of snowfall in order to identify the snowflakes and this is why it takes time."

He said the standard model of particle physics describes only 5 percent of the universe, which many theorize occurred in a massive explosion known as the Big Bang.

To explain how subatomic particles, such as electrons, protons and neutrons, were themselves formed, Higgs and others in the 1960s envisioned an energy field where particles interact with a key particle, the Higgs boson.

The idea was that other particles attract Higgs bo-

sons and the more they attract, the bigger their mass will be. But a big question remains: Is this new particle a variation of the Higgs boson, or the same as the Higgs boson that was predicted?

The phrase "God particle," coined by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Leon Lederman, is used by laymen, not physicists, more as an explanation for how the subatomic universe works than how it all started.

"Now, if there is a deviation in one of the properties of this Higgs boson, that means we open a new window, for example, hopefully into the part of the dark universe, the 95 percent of the unknown universe," said Heuer.

"If you find the deviation," he added, "that means if it is not the — but a — Higgs boson, then we might find a fantastic window into the dark universe so we would make another giant leap from the visible to the dark." □



An H2-A rocket carrying two intelligence satellites lifts off from its launch pad at Tanegashima Space Center, southwestern Japan, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013.

Associated Press

Japan launches two intelligence satellites

ERIC TALMADGE

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan launched two intelligence satellites into orbit on Sunday amid growing concerns that North Korea is planning to test more rockets of its own and possibly conduct a nuclear test.

Officials say the launch Sunday of the domestically produced HII-A rocket went smoothly and the satellites — an operational radar satellite and an experimental optical probe — appear to have reached orbit.

Japan began its intelligence satellite program after North Korea fired a long-range missile over Japan's main island in 1998. North Korea conducted a launch last month that it says carried a satellite into orbit but has been condemned by the U.S. and others as a cover for its development of missile technology.

The latest Japanese launch

was in the planning stages long before the current increase in tensions with North Korea, but underscores Japan's longstanding wariness of its isolated neighbor's abilities and intentions.

The radar satellite, which can provide intelligence through cloud cover and at night, is intended to augment a network of several probes that Japan already has in orbit. The optical probe will be used to test future technology and improvements that would allow Japan to strengthen its surveillance capabilities.

Japan still relies on the United States for much of its intelligence.

Its optical satellites are believed to be about as good as commercial satellites, meaning they are able to detect objects of about 40 centimeters (16 inches) in size from their orbits. With the additional radar sat-

ellite, Japan hopes to be able to glean intelligence on any specified location once a day.

Japan, which hosts about 50,000 U.S. troops, is especially concerned about North Korea because its main islands are already within range of the North's missiles. Along with developing its own network of spy satellites, Japan has cooperated with Washington in establishing an elaborate missile defense shield.

North Korea's powerful National Defense Commission declared last week that the country would carry out a nuclear test and launch more rockets in defiance of the U.N. Security Council's announcement that it would punish Pyongyang for its long-range rocket test in December with more sanctions, calling it a violation of a ban on nuclear and missile activity. □

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Taylor Swift talks sexier look, new tour

NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Taylor Swift has been turning heads with her new, sexy wardrobe, but the 23-year-old says it's just a reflection of getting older.

Swift has people buzzing about her recent red carpet choices, which have included plunging necklines and shorter skirts. "As far as wardrobe, we have been operating from a different place," Swift said.

While her choices may be demure compared with the Kim Kardashians of the world, for Swift, a former teen sweetheart, it's raised eyebrows, and she acknowledges that it's been a bit of a shock for some people who are accustomed to seeing her wear long dresses. She recalled how her decision to wear shorts at last year's MTV Video Music Awards caused a stir.

"It was like, 'Gasp, Taylor wears shorts.' And I thought it was hilarious," she said, adding: "I'm not going to be like taking my clothes off or that sort of thing."

Swift's new look is a reflection of her overall maturation, with her latest album, "Red," selling more than 3 million copies since it was released last fall and producing two smash singles, "I Knew You Were Trouble" and "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together," which is nominated for record of the year at next month's Grammy Awards. "I'm so happy about (my) three nominations — it's so unreal," Swift said in a phone interview Monday from Paris.

Swift said she's especially happy with the success of songs like "I Knew You Were Trouble," a dance-infused song that takes her further from her country realm than ever before.

"The fans have been so good to me this year," she said. "I wanted to make a genre-defying record, I wanted to make an album that was hard to pin down, and hard to box in."

Swift said fans should expect more surprises during



This Jan. 26, 2013 file photo shows American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift at the Cannes festival palace, to take part in the NRJ Music awards ceremony in Cannes, southeastern France.

Associated Press

her upcoming tour, which kicks off March 13 in Omaha, Nebraska. She's partnering with Diet Coke for the tour, and she's signed on to be a pitchwoman for

the beverage.

While a recent op-ed piece in The New York Times questioned whether pop stars should be endorsing soft drinks with society's push

toward a healthier lifestyle, Swift, who noted she's become more health-conscious, said the beverage is part of her life.

"I think my lifestyle plays a

Amy Poehler working on 'non-linear' book

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tina Fey had a million seller with a book of essays called "Bossypants." Amy Poehler? She has a deal for a book which appears to be a little bit of everything. The star of "Parks and Recreation" and former "Saturday Night Live" performer has an agreement with It Books for an "illustrated, non-linear diary." It Books, a pop culture imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, announced Monday that the book is currently untitled and scheduled for 2014.

Financial terms were not disclosed. "Her original twist on the conventional memoir

will have universal appeal," according to It Books. "An illustrated, non-linear diary full of humor and honesty and brimming with true stories, fictional anecdotes and life lessons, the book



Amy Poehler arrives at the 19th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on Sunday Jan. 27, 2013.

Associated Press

will be a unique and engaging experience from one of today's most talented and beloved stars." It's the first book for Poehler, who recently co-hosted the Golden Globes ceremony with Fey, her long-

time friend and professional collaborator. Poehler will be edited by It Books' Carrie Thornton, who said in a statement that after first talking to Poehler she was "blown away by her creativity and her passion." □

part into what I choose to endorse," Swift said. "Diet Coke is something that is a part of my life. ... Also a part of my life is exercise." Her partnership with the soft drink company includes the use of social media platforms to connect with fans, something that Swift, an avid Tweeter and presence on Instagram, already uses on her own. □



In a 2002 photo, Leroy "Sugarfoot" Bonner, lead singer for the Ohio Players, performs during day two of the Midtown Music Festival in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Ohio Players frontman 'Sugarfoot' Bonner dead

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Leroy "Sugarfoot" Bonner, frontman for the hit-making funk music band the Ohio Players, has died in the U.S. He was 69.

A spokeswoman for an Ohio funeral home confirms he died Saturday. There is also a posting about his death on his current band's Facebook page.

The Ohio Players topped music charts in the 1970s with hits such as "Love Rollercoaster," "Fire," "Skin Tight" and "Funky Worm." They were known for their brassy dance music, catchy lyrics and flamboyant outfits.

Bonner helped form the Ohio Players in the 1960s. He had remained active in recent years with a spinoff called Sugarfoot's Ohio Players. □



In this undated publicity photo released by Lucasfilm Ltd. & TM, director George Lucas directs actor Anthony Daniels, who plays the robot C-3PO, in "Star Wars II: Attack of the Clones," on location in the Tunisian desert.

Associated Press

Lucasfilm pushes pause on 3-D 'Star Wars' prequels

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The force isn't with the 3-D versions of the "Star Wars" prequels.

Lucasfilm said in a statement Monday that it's postponing the scheduled 3-D releases of "Star Wars: Episode II — Attack Of The Clones" and "Episode III — Revenge of the Sith" this autumn to instead focus its efforts on "Star Wars: Episode VII."

The Walt Disney Co. confirmed Friday that J.J. Abrams, creator of the TV

series "Lost" and director of 2009's "Star Trek" movie, will direct the seventh installment of the franchise, set for a 2014 release.

Disney bought "Star Wars" maker Lucasfilm last month for \$4.06 billion.

"Episode I — The Phantom Menace" was released in 3-D last February and earned \$22.4 million domestically its opening weekend.

The original prequels were released from 1999 to 2005. □

Newbery, Caldecott awards out for children's books

HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Katherine Applegate's "The One and Only Ivan" won the John Newbery Medal for the outstanding book of 2012, while Jon Klassen's "This Is Not My Hat" received the Randolph Caldecott Medal for outstanding illustration, the American Library Association announced Monday. The Newbery and Caldecott awards are the top honors for U.S. children's literature. Applegate's book tells of a daydreaming gorilla and the life lessons he receives through his friendship with a baby elephant. It was inspired by a real gorilla, one who lived decades without meeting another of his kind before spending his final, happy years at an Atlanta zoo. Klassen was the author

and illustrator of "This Is Not My Hat," his picture story about a fish and his blue hat, and the successor to Klassen's popular "I Want My Hat Back." Bryan Collier's illustration for a book edition of Langston Hughes' poem "I, Too, Am America" received a Coretta Scott King prize for outstanding work by an African-American. Andrea Davis Pinkney's "Hand in Hand" won the King award for best text.

Alire Saenz's "Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe" won twice: the Stonewall Book Award, for works about the gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender experience, and the Pura Belpre Award for best Latino/Latina author. David Diaz's work on "Martin de Porres: The Rose in the Desert" won the Belpre for illustration. □

Whitney Houston's mother has words for Bobby Brown



This Jan. 22, 2013 photo shows American gospel singer and author Cissy Houston posing for a portrait in New York. Houston, mother of the late singer Whitney Houston, is releasing a book, "Remembering Whitney," on Tuesday, Jan. 29.

HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Cissy Houston has a few words, and a few more, for Bobby Brown.

In "Remembering Whitney," the mother of the late Whitney Houston writes that from the start she had doubted whether Brown was right for her daughter. And she thinks that Whitney might not have ended up so "deep" into drugs had they not stayed together.

"I do believe her life would have turned out differently," Houston writes. "It would have been easier for her to get sober and stay sober. Instead she was with someone who, like her, wanted to party. To me, he never seemed to be a help to her in the way she needed."

"Remembering Whitney" came out Tuesday, two weeks short of the first anniversary of Houston's death. She drowned in a hotel bathtub in Beverly Hills, California, at age 48. Authorities said her death was complicated by cocaine use and heart disease.

During a recent telephone interview, Houston said she has no contact with Brown and didn't see any reason to, not even concerning her granddaughter, Bobbi Kristina. She reaffirmed her comments in the book that Whitney Houston would have been better off

without him. "How would you like it if he had anything to do with your daughter?" she asked.

A request to Brown's publicist for comment was not immediately returned Monday.

Houston said she wanted the book published so the world would not believe the worst about her daughter. Cissy Houston, herself an accomplished soul and gospel singer who has performed with Elvis Presley and Aretha Franklin, describes Whitney as a transcendent talent and vivacious and generous person known affectionately by her childhood nickname, "Nippy." But she acknowledges in the book that her daughter could be "mean" and "difficult" and questions at times how well she knew her.

"In my darkest moments, I wonder whether Nippy loved me," she writes. "She always told me she did. But you know, she didn't call me much. She didn't come see me as much as I hoped she would."

But, "almost always," Whitney Houston was "the sweetest, most loving person in the room."

Brown is portrayed as childish and impulsive, hot tempered and jealous of his wife's success. Cissy Houston describes a 1997 incident when Whitney sustained a "deep cut"

on her face while on a yacht with Brown in the Mediterranean. Whitney insisted it was an accident; Brown had slammed his hand on a table, breaking a plate. A piece of china flew up and hit Whitney, requiring surgery to cover any possible scar.

The injury was minor, the effects possibly fateful. "She seemed sadder after that, like something had been taken away from her," Houston writes.

For years, Whitney's drug problems had been only a rumor to her mother, who writes that concerns expressed by record executive Clive Davis were kept from her by her daughter and others. But by 2005 she had seen the worst. Houston remembers a horrifying visit to the Atlanta home of Brown and Houston, where the walls and doors were spray-painted with "big glaring eyes and strange faces." Whitney's face had been cut out from a framed family picture, an image Cissy Houston found "beyond disturbing." The next time Houston came to the house, she was joined by two sheriff's deputies who helped her take Whitney to the hospital.

"She was so angry at me, cursing me and up and down," she writes. "Eventually, after a good long while, Nippy did stop being angry at me." □

DC Needs More Bears!



GAIL COLLINS

© 2013 New York Times

When I was a kid, my parents would occasionally go out together for dinner at a restaurant. To make sure the other patrons thought they were engaged in lively conversation, my mother would quietly tell my father stories like "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." He'd nod and ask questions like "What happened next?" It actually worked out very well.

The other day, when I was listening to the House of Representatives debate the debt ceiling, I tried to imagine ways to make Congress as easy to tackle over the dinner table as the Three Bears.

The debt ceiling is the first of several fiscal cliffs the country is facing in the near future and the scenario is certainly riveting: The Treasury is due to run out of money to pay our bills in late February, at which time the national credit rating could crater, sending financial markets around the world into a free fall.

But, in practice, we're just talking about rearranging deadlines. This week, the House voted to push the debt-ceiling crisis back to the end of the line. And the obvious topic of conversation, if you were sitting over pasta with your husband, would be: Which fiscal cliff would you rather fall off first?

Imagine Goldilocks finding the first cliff too steep, and the next one too bumpy. But can you have a cliff that's just right? Maybe we need a poem:

"A sequester cuts a big chunk from the spending
For guns, butter and schools – but not lending
It kicks in March One,
Unless something is done
Toward this one the GOP's tending."

The sequester can sound sort of seductive. If you made the Pentagon really hack away at its budget you know they could find some big, useless projects to get rid of. But as it stands now, the law requires a nasty nibbling away at almost every domestic and defense program in existence rather than a couple of big constructive gulps.

"There's a thing called Continuing Resolution

A kicking-the-can institution

In March it will end,

And the government can't

spend

Unless they can find resolution"

The last time Congress failed to fund the government, the results included, over the long run, the destruction of Newt Gingrich's political career. So something to think about.

"The debt ceiling cliff is in sight
But Congress thinks falling off
wouldn't be right

They're postponing that day

Till the 18th of May

When we'll all be too tired to fight"

"No one really knows what will happen. But I'm not quite sure I want to look over the edge of the cliff when it comes to the debt limit," Speaker John Boehner said in a speech this week. So, there's one vote.

This was the speech in which Boehner claimed that the Obama administration was attempting to "annihilate" the Republicans and "just shove us into the dustbin of history." He was peeved about the inauguration speech, which actually didn't so much attack the Republicans as ignore them completely, as if they had all the significance of the Modern Whig Party. Nothing more painful than not being noticed.

Boehner's speech, to the Ripon Society, included repeated references to the fact that the Senate has not passed a budget for several years. ("There's nothing that irritates our members more.") Here's another topic for dinner: Why are the Republicans so obsessed with this issue? The congressional budget isn't all that critical; it's more of a theory than a law. But Boehner and his members behave as if the Senate's failure to come up with one is a threat to the national well-being that makes global warming look like a week of bad weather.

To lure the party's right wing into voting for the debt ceiling postponement, Boehner tacked on a section that would defer lawmakers' pay if their chamber doesn't come up with a budget this year. That would presumably be the senators, since the House passes a budget every year, in the form of a plan so improbable that Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan couldn't even drag it through the presidential campaign.

"When I grew up in Wisconsin, if you had a job ... and didn't do the work, you didn't get paid," Ryan declaimed in the House debate. Have you ever noticed how much Ryan talks about jobs he had in high school and college? Do you think he just likes talking about the brief period when he wasn't employed as a professional politician? Or is it just that he wants us to remember that he once drove the Oscar Meyer Wienermobile?

Nevertheless, the Senate should obviously do a budget. When the House passed its bill this week, Senate Democrats said they would. In fact, their leaders were practically wearing party hats. They can't wait. □



The Great Migration



DAVID BROOKS

© 2013 New York Times

One of the features of the Obama years is that we get to witness an enormous race, which you might call the race between meritocracy and government. On the one side, there is the meritocracy, which widens inequality. On the other side, there is President Barack Obama's team of progressives, who are trying to mitigate inequality. The big question is: Which side is winning?

First, there is our system of higher education, which is like a giant vacuum cleaner that sucks up some of the smartest people from across the country and concentrates them in a few privileged places.

Smart high school students from rural Nebraska, small-town Ohio and urban Newark, N.J., get to go to good universities. When they get there they often find a culture shock.

They've been raised in an atmosphere of social

equality and now find themselves in a culture that emphasizes the relentless quest for distinction – to be more accomplished, more enlightened and more cutting edge. They may have been raised in a culture that emphasizes roots, but they go into a culture that emphasizes mobility – a multicultural cosmopolitanism that encourages you to go anywhere on your quest for self-fulfillment. They may have been raised among people who enter the rooms of the mighty with the nerves of a stranger, but they are now around people who enter the highest places with the confident sense they belong.

But the system works. In the dorms, classrooms, summer internships and early jobs they learn how to behave the way successful people do in the highly educated hubs. There's no economic reason to return home, and maybe it's not even socially possible anymore.

The highly educated cluster around a few small nodes. Decade after decade, smart and educated people flock away from Merced, Calif.; Yuma, Ariz.; Flint, Mich.; and Vineland, N.J. In those places, less than 15 percent of the residents have college degrees. They flock to Washington; Boston; San Jose, Calif.; Raleigh-Durham,

N.C.; and San Francisco. In those places, nearly 50 percent of the residents have college degrees.

As Enrico Moretti writes in "The New Geography of Jobs," the magnet places have positive ecologies that multiply innovation, creativity and wealth. The abandoned places have negative ecologies and fall further behind.

This sorting is self-reinforcing, and it seems to grow more unforgiving every year. One small study caught my eye. Robert Oprisko of Butler University found that half of the jobs in university political science programs went to graduates of the top 11 schools. That is to say, if you have a Ph.D. from Harvard, Stanford, Princeton and so on, your odds of getting a job are very good. If you earned your degree from one of the other 100 degree-granting universities, your odds are not. These other 100 schools don't even want to hire the sort of graduates they themselves produce. They want the elite credential.

Barack Obama (Occidental, Columbia, Harvard) benefited from this sorting system. So did his wife (Princeton, Harvard). So did most people in his administration. So did many people who read this newspaper and many of us who write for it. □

In 'Ice Cross,' reach the top or come crashing down

SARAH BARKER

© 2013 New York Times

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A company at the top of the marketing game, Red Bull insists that ice cross downhill, like the other extreme sports the company has created, is not about selling beverages but rather an obliga-

skiing and motocross, and it is performed by four skaters at a time who race in full hockey gear down a steep, twisting, mogul-studded course at speeds reaching 45 mph. Red Bull's Crashed Ice World Championship consists of five ice cross downhill tournaments, only

only thought was, I can't wait.

"I used to be extremely involved in sports," Lundquist, 23, said. "Now I work 50 hours a week at Target Corp and watch my two best friends play pro hockey in Norway. I want a chance to hopefully be

outrageous events, and they don't charge anybody for them," he said.

St. Paul businesses, particularly bars, are similarly pleased. The mayor's office reported that Crashed Ice 2012 brought in \$20 million in what was traditionally the coldest week of the

"I have to pinch myself," said Bergeson, 25, of Red Wing, Minn. He was attired at the tryouts in the offhand manner of a veteran, wearing pink and black Zubaz pants. "I've played hockey since I was 3 years old. Within two months of doing ice cross, I was at the top of the sport. It excites me to be a pioneer."

Like most ice crossers, Bergeson has a strong hockey background sprinkled with other fast-moving, hard-hitting pursuits like skiing, in-line skating and football.

"My brother and I were always making jumps in our backyard," he said. "So when I heard about the tryouts, I thought this was something I might be good at. The prize money never crossed my mind. I just wanted a chance to get on the course."

Competing last January against an international field of about 160 veterans and rookies, in front of a Red Bull-primed crowd of 80,000, Bergeson finished in 26th place, the third American. As such, he was invited to join Team USA for the Crashed Ice World Championship 2012 series — in the Netherlands, Sweden and Quebec City, Canada — at Red Bull's expense.

The life of a professional ice crosser did not mesh with that of a full-time student, however, so Naasz took the spring semester off and made up classes over the summer. "My parents think the travel is great, but they probably would have killed me if I didn't keep up with school," he said. As late-comers to ice cross downhill, the Team USA athletes finished the 2012 season in the middle of world rankings, with Swiss, Canadian and Finnish athletes taking the top spots. Naasz trained last summer with renewed energy, working out in the gym daily, mountain biking and getting on the ice three times a week. His dedication resulted in a second-place finish at this season's first Crashed Ice event in Ontario, just behind the world champion Kyle Croxall of Canada. □



An ice cross racer crashing down the ice track at Red Bull's Crashed Ice World Championship in St. Paul, Minn. Red Bull insists that ice cross downhill, like the other extreme sports the company has created, is not about selling beverages but rather an obligation to improve the lives of adrenaline junkies worldwide.

(Jenn Ackerman/The New York Times)

tion to improve the lives of adrenaline junkies worldwide. The participants at the Crashed Ice qualifier at Xcel Energy Center held last week seemed persuaded.

Red Bull officials could have hollered, "This is an expensive marketing ploy to sell more energy drinks," and the overwhelming response from skaters would have been, "Is it my turn yet?"

Ice cross downhill combines elements of downhill

one of which takes place in the United States.

The Crashed Ice course, plunging from a bluff-top cathedral to downtown St. Paul, took 20 days and an army of workers with snowmobiles to construct, just for this three-day event. As rookie Sever Lundquist climbed the 84 metal steps to the starting gate 48 feet above ground for the first time, realizing that within two strides he would be hitting vehicular speeds on thin steel blades, he said his

a star, to be really great at something. To travel and be considered a pro athlete — that would be awesome."

The ice cross demographic is heavily white, male and 18 to 34 years old. Like the other extreme dudes, Lundquist said he had nothing but gratitude for Red Bull for investing its beverage-backed millions in all-comer awesomeness. "Sure, there's a business incentive behind it, but Red Bull puts a lot of money into these

year in the city.

Lundquist is not about to waste this opportunity. Because the United States has no permanent ice cross courses on which to train, his father pulled him behind a snowmobile while he navigated an obstacle course they built on a lake. "Otherwise, at no time would you ever hit 45 mph on skates," he said, laughing. Andrew Bergeson, a second-year member of Red Bull Crashed Ice Team USA, is another believer.